Time is running out
Here are 10 things you can do between now and March 7 to help fight Knight.
page 12

Ceramic boots awarded
Leather Archives & Museum has grand opening in Chicago.
page 14



Rupert on the record
'Next Best Thing' press junket in South Beach.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 8 • 24 February 2000

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 28 years

Governor Davis may reappoint homophobe to state prison board

by Katie Szymanski

If the fact that HIV-positive prisoners cannot get adequate medical treatment and gay prisoners are often deliberately housed where they will be harassed is not enough to convince the community that prisoners' rights are indeed a queer issue, then consider the reality that Jim Nielsen, chair of the California Board of Prison Terms, is openly against "homosexual rights" and has called AIDS "God's way of reacting to a permissive society." Then consider the very real chance that Governor Gray Davis may be about to reappoint Nielsen to his position, where he will continue to oversee the parole hearings for thousands of individuals, including openly gay Robert Rosenkrantz, who is in prison for killing his attacker.



Rick Gerharter

Gov. Gray Davis

One gay organization last week took the lead in trying to stop the reappointment of the self-declared anti-gay board chair; in a February 16 letter to the governor, San Francisco's Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club urged Davis to remove Nielsen from his post, citing his history of human rights violations and blatant homophobia.

"Federal court records reveal cases where inmates appearing before the board for hearings had to leave their wheelchairs and drag themselves up flights of stairs, where

page **12** ▶



Year of the Golden Dragon

San Francisco's Chinese New Year parade last Saturday, February 19, drew a record crowd of nearly 1 million people. The University of California at Berkeley's gay Asian group participated, above, as did the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance.

Jane Philomen Cleland

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CITY PROPOSITIONS
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STATE PROPOSITIONS
Vote Yes on: 1A, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 26
Vote No on: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

For information on ballot measures, see page 6.

'Gays for 22' falls apart, chair quits

by Terry Beswick

In what could be a serious blow to the right-wing campaign to pass the Knight initiative, the openly gay state chair of "Gays for 22" has said that he is reversing his stance on the closely-fought ballot measure, and is resigning his post this week.

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, February 22, Tom Beddingfield said he will volunteer to help the No on Knight campaign to defeat the initiative, Proposition 22 on the state's March 7 presidential primary ballot.

Beddingfield said that he wrestled with his decision for several days, since appearing with four other reportedly gay and lesbian members of the supposed coalition at a February 10 Sacramento news conference. If passed by voters, the initiative would effectively ban official recognition of same-sex marriages in California even if they are someday legally performed in another state.

When "Gays for 22" was announced, Beddingfield said that he was basing his endorsement of the initiative on states' rights issues, explaining that he didn't think it right for another state's judiciary or legislature to decide the issue of gay marriage for Californians.

In an attempt to undermine the "full faith and credit" clause of the U.S. Constitution, which provides that states should recognize each other's civil laws, 30 other states have already passed legislation to ensure that they will not recognize any future out-of-state gay or lesbian marriages. In 1996, Congress passed and President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act that outlawed same-sex marriage on a federal level, and aimed at giving states legal coverage from constitutional challenges if they chose not to recognize gay marriages performed in other states.

Now, however, Beddingfield has come around to the view that by voting on Proposition 22, California will in fact not be going against an illusive principle of "states' rights," but will merely be following Congress's suggestion, and deciding whether to honor out-of-state same-sex marriages.

"It is our decision," he said, while noting that he still does not personally favor legalization of gay marriage. "Let Californians decide for themselves."

If California breaks with the national trend, the initiative's backers believe it will undermine families, and the institution of heterosexual marriage itself.

But Beddingfield said that he never really agreed with that notion.

"I don't buy the argument that [the Knight initiative] is going to send a positive message to families and to children that we are protecting marriage as an institution," he said. "That's ridiculous. If it doesn't pass, it's not going to have any effect on marriages. What about the gay kids? What about children of gay parents? What kind of message does it send to them?"

Beddingfield credited conversations with Toni Broaddus, assistant to No on Knight campaign manager Mike Marshall, for helping him to understand the negative, personal effect Proposition 22 would have on people's lives.

When the Yes on 22 campaign announced the apparently fallacious "Gays for 22," Beddingfield was disturbed, he said, by their in-

page **21** ▶

No on Knight needs GOTV help March 7

by Terry Beswick

Proposition 22, the "Limit on Marriages" initiative authored by anti-family homophobic state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), is on the ballot for California's presidential primary – now less than two weeks away.

The No on Knight/No on Proposition 22 campaign expects that a strong "no" vote from the San Francisco Bay Area will be especially important in the tight race to counter votes from traditionally conservative regions. Esperanza Macias, volunteer coordinator for No on Knight, is calling for volunteers statewide to sign up now for election day get out the vote (GOTV) work.

"Take the day off on Tuesday, March 7," Macias urged opponents of the Knight initiative. "In this case, we have to make sure that everyone knows that every vote counts." ▼

To volunteer for election day GOTV efforts locally, call Macias at (415) 227-1020.

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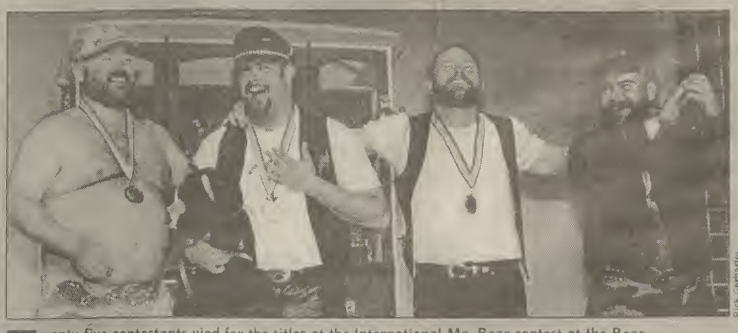
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And the Bear winners are...



Rick Gerharter

Twenty-five contestants vied for the titles at the International Mr. Bear contest at the Bear Rendezvous weekend last Sunday, February 20 and the winners were, from left, Bear Cub Brad Bivving, Mr. Bear Heath McKay, Daddy Bear Craig McCauslan, and Grizzly Bear Robert Kenny.

Yeager brings vision to San Jose council race

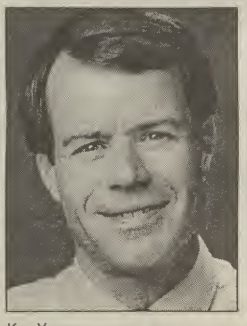
by Marv. Shaw

Bringing experience and a developed understanding of South Bay issues to the March 7 race for a position on the San Jose City Council, the openly gay Ken Yeager cites a 30-year wealth of qualifications for the job.

The slogan "Neighborhoods First" characterizes Yeager's campaign. Citing traffic and mass transportation as necessities that still cause problems, Yeager is eager to work out solutions for neighborhoods in the matters of public safety and noise. In San Jose, councilmembers are elected by district. Yeager is running for District 6, where he lives. It is Willow Glen, which also includes Rose Garden.

Yeager told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his campaign is going well into the final stretch before next month's election. There are six people running in District 6, and it is an open seat since the incumbent is not among the candidates.

Yeager is no stranger to South Bay politics; he was elected to the San Jose State Community College board in 1992, and became the only gay person to hold such a position in Santa Clara County. He is currently president of that



Ken Yeager

body. In his years of public service, Yeager was the co-founder of the Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee, a group that has urged the recognition and increased participation of gay and lesbian citizens in the region's political life. He has also been a member of 16 other municipally affiliated bodies over the years, including the Santa Clara County Grand Jury and the Friends of the Rose Garden Library.

The 47-year-old candidate's formal higher education includes a bachelor's degree in political science from San Jose State University as well as a master's degree in sociology and a Ph.D. in education, both from Stanford. Yeager now teaches political science at San Jose State University.

Though Yeager is a Democrat and is supported by prominent members of that party, he believes that solving city problems is a nonpartisan matter and vows to proceed on those grounds.

Supporters include San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales, former Mayor Susan Hammer, Assemblywoman Elaine Alquist, state Board of Equalization Chairman Johan Klehs, and Asian Americans for Community Involvement Director Amor Santiago. Such large and influential groups as the Sierra Club and the AFL-CIO also are supporting Yeager.

Asked if being a councilman would be a full-time job if he were elected, he immediately answered in the affirmative, but then added that he would find it beneficial if he could go on teaching one class per term.

Yeager is looking for campaign volunteers and of course, donations. ▼

To help out, contact Yeager at (408) 297-1024.

Beach Blanket Babylon's 'King Louis' to give benefit performance Saturday

by Marv. Shaw

King Louis isn't actually. Oh, that Louis XIV costume may make *Beach Blanket Babylon* star Kenny Mazlow look like the 18th century original, but he is the camp comic and singer who gets responses of hilarity that bring in the dollars that go to the charity of your choice when he performs in Burlingame this Saturday, February 26 at Peninsula Temple Shalom's 11th annual Operation Help benefit. One of the beneficiaries will be the AIDS Community Research Consortium in Redwood City.

Proceeds from the benefit which includes a buffet dinner catered by Max's restaurant, go to a variety of nonprofit service agencies, which are selling tickets for the event. "This kind of evening makes fundraising easy for our agency," said Michael Edell, ACRC's executive director. "One hundred percent of every ticket we sell goes directly to our organization."

The Redwood City-based ACRC provides HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C research, education, and street-based outreach to people throughout the Bay Area.

"Local nonprofits often struggle to keep pace with the cost of doing business on the Peninsula, where the cost of maintaining a business continues to soar," Edell added.

The Operation Help benefit is an opportunity to raise money without the tremendous overhead often associated with coordinating a special event. Temple volunteers book the entertainment, handle dinner table seating, and take care of other arrangements. ▼

The event starts at 6:30 p.m. at Peninsula Temple Shalom, 1655 Sebastian Drive in Burlingame. Tickets start at $40 per person and can be ordered online to benefit ACRC at www.acteva.com/go/acrc or by calling (650) 364-6563, ext. 17.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

South Bay gay man made up attack story

by Ed Walsh

Santa Clara County prosecutors plan to file charges against a gay Morgan Hill man for concocting a story about being kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and tossed into a creek bed along Highway 101 earlier this month.

Benson Carroll, 38, confessed to police he made up the elaborate hoax to cover up for spending a night away from the home he shared with his partner and to explain why he was so late returning a car he had borrowed from a friend.

Carroll had claimed he spent the night of February 10 bound and gagged along Coyote Creek near Morgan Hill but police say he spent the night with two other men in a San Jose motel room engaging in "consensual adult activities."

Carroll's story unraveled last week after someone tipped police off to the hoax after reading news accounts of the crime. Carroll had originally told investigators he was approached by a man with a knife at a market and taken to a remote area where he was robbed and sexually assaulted before being tied up, gagged and left naked in a creek bed. A passing motorist on Highway 101 spotted Carroll in the creek bed and alerted police over his cell phone.

Originally, police had decided to investigate the case as a hate crime because of anti-gay remarks Carroll said the attacker made. Now police are pursuing charges against Carroll and have turned the case over to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office.

"It's a bum deal all around," Assistant District Attorney Karyn Sinnunu told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It's a bum deal for the community and a bum deal for the officers." Sinnunu said she expected to file charges against Carroll for filing a false police report as soon as her office had the opportunity to review the police reports. Police hope they will be able to recover some of their investigative costs from Carroll. ▼

More trouble at SOMA dance club

by Ed Walsh

There was more trouble last weekend for a popular South of Market gay dance club.

Paramedics were called to the Pleasuredome early Monday morning, February 21, to treat a 25-year-old man suffering from a drug overdose. San Francisco Fire Department spokesman Lieutenant Ed Campbell told the *Bay Area Reporter* that emergency crews were dispatched to the club on 177 Townsend Street at 4:07 a.m. Campbell said the overdose victim was taken by ambulance to Saint Francis Hospital. A hospital spokesman said he could not release information about the man's condition.

The man was reported to have taken three different drugs that night: gamma hydroxy butyrate acid (GHB), ketamine, and "whippet."

"The GHB and ketamine could cause coma, seizure, and respiratory arrest," said Dr. Tom Kearney, director of the San Francisco division of the California Poison Control Center. Kearney added that the combination of whippet only makes the first two drugs more dangerous. Whippet, he explained, is the street name for the nitrous oxide used as a propellant in some whipped cream dispensers. Ketamine, often called "special K," is used as an animal tranquilizer. Kearney said is was originally used on people but was eliminated because of its damaging psychiatric effects. GHB is a colorless, odorless, liquid drug that has become popular among many late night partygoers.

Two weekends ago, on February 13, paramedics were called to the same address after a 35-year-old San Jose man collapsed and died in the club. That incident happened during Pleasuredome's sister Saturday night club, Club Universe. Police are investigating whether the victim, Jeffrey Goring, may have taken GHB. San Francisco Medical Examiner Dr. Boyd Stephens said it would likely be another month before Goring's cause of death could be determined.

Pleasuredome usually closes at 3:30 a.m. but was open until 6 a.m. last weekend because of the Presidents Day holiday. The Sunday night club used to be open until 6 a.m. every week but last September the club's management decided to close earlier in an effort to cut down the number of people who arrived at the club late to do drugs.

San Francisco police told the *B.A.R.* that they have made several drug arrests outside the Townsend Street club in recent weeks. ▼

Election forum in Marin Wednesday

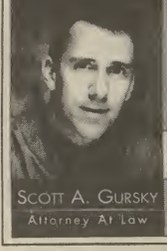
by Katie Szymanski

When those naive about Proposition 22 are told either that a yes vote protects the children or that a no vote does not mean approval of gay rights, it's time to do some educational outreach.

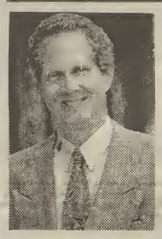
For the down and dirty on candidates, propositions, and how they will affect people, Spectrum – Marin County's center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender concerns – is presenting a community forum about the March 7 primary election this Wednesday, March 1 at 7 p.m.

Scheduled speakers at the forum include Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, and California Alliance for Pride and Equality Executive Director Jean Harris, among others. Topics to be discussed include Proposition 21, which will incarcerate thousands of young people for minor crimes; Proposition 22, which will limit marriage to heterosexual couples; recent legislative victories such as the domestic partners registry and Dignity for All Students Act; and how individuals can inform and motivate voters.

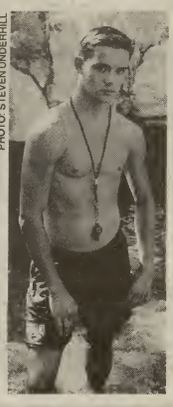
Spectrum serves more than 6,000 people a year throughout Marin County, working to promote LGBT acceptance, understanding, and full inclusion by sponsoring a full range of educational and social programs. Wednesday's event is free and open to all, and takes place in the Creekside Room at Dominican College of San Rafael. Seating is limited, so call Spectrum at (415) 457-1115, ext. 203, to reserve a space. ▼

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Imperial coronation Saturday


Jane Philomen Cleland

Voters, including Gabriel Hernandez, left, were at Project Open Hand last Saturday, February 19 to vote for Imperial Court Emperor and Empress. The winners will be announced at Coronation 2000, this Saturday, February 26 at the Giftcenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan Street. Doors open at 5 p.m., the ball starts at 6. Other events take place throughout the weekend. For tickets or more information, call (415) 864-6672.

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No on Knight raises nearly $6 million

by Terry Beswick

As the campaign to defeat Proposition 22, the measure that aims to ban future recognition of gay marriages in California, winds down to its final days, money has been rolling in from across the state. Last Saturday, a Los Angeles fundraiser brought in about $330,000, while a Tuesday night San Francisco fundraiser raised over $200,000, putting No on Knight/No on Proposition 22's total contributions at nearly $6 million.

Meanwhile, No on Knight campaign manager Mike Marshall revealed that a new poll of 600 likely voters in California conducted last weekend, just over two weeks before the March 7 election, showed that only 48 percent of respondents supported the ballot measure, with 39 percent opposed, and 13 percent undecided.

"These are good numbers for us," said Marshall, who was encouraged that for the first time, those in favor of the Knight initiative had dropped below the 50 percent line.

Marshall has funneled about $3.6 million into television air time already; ads began airing last week in the Los Angeles, San Diego, and Sacramento media markets, and began this week in the Bay Area. Most of the additional money raised in the final weeks of the campaign will be used to purchase even more air time, in addition to radio ads that are beginning this week in the San Diego area. Marshall also plans automated phone calls to about 1 million targeted voters statewide encouraging them to get out and vote against Proposition 22.

But will $6 million, all of which has already been spent, be enough to overcome the deceptively simple 14-word initiative?

Marshall was hedging his bets.

"Ask me in March," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*, adding that more money is needed to counter the television blitz being put on by the opposition.

Saturday's star-studded fundraiser in Los Angeles, hosted by the Human Rights Campaign, reportedly turned into a glitzy rally and fundraising frenzy for No on Knight. Tipper Gore delivered the keynote address, and Judy Shepard, the late Matthew Shepard's mother, appealed to the crowd for more donations for No on Knight. But actress Sharon Stone stole the show when she spontaneously jumped to the stage to auction off her coat for $16,000.

Meanwhile, Tuesday's fundraiser at Mecca featured Cybill Shepherd, and honored San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno and Silicon Valley executive Kathy Levinson for their leadership in fighting the Knight initiative.

"I think we can defeat this," said Leno, who nevertheless is concerned that the heated GOP presidential battle between Texas Governor George W. Bush and Arizona Senator John McCain to register Republican voters and turn them out for the primary could make a No on Knight victory more difficult.

Leno, who has personally raised about $300,000 for the No on Knight campaign, said he is "working with the White House every day to ask that the president comes out against the Knight initiative," and hopes that McCain will speak against it as well, now that his campaign has taken on new steam with recent primary victories.

The so-called Protection of Marriage Committee, the Sacramento-based group campaigning for Proposition 22, has begun airing two pandering television ads in Spanish and English statewide.

To their credit, and unlike the ads put out by the Yes camp, the two 30-second ads for No on Knight tackle the issue of gay rights head-on. One asks viewers, "What if your child, or the child of someone you know, turns out to be gay? Do you still want what's best for them? Of course you do."

Another follows in the No on Knight's long-standing strategy of making the campaign personal,

page 21 ▶

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Positive men wanted for new UCSF study

by Katie Szymanski

University of California, San Francisco AIDS prevention researchers are looking for HIV-positive men to participate in a new study aimed at reducing sexual behaviors that can lead to HIV transmission.

Called "Bay Men," the study will focus on decreasing isolation of HIV-positive men and engaging them in primary prevention of HIV. Participants will attend large group sessions that combine a support group format with social interaction. The sessions are organized to serve as a safe environment where HIV-positive men can meet other men living with HIV for open discussion about the impact of sex, dating, personal health, and other issues in their lives. The study is the first to target prevention strategies at people who have already tested positive.

"What makes 'Bay Men' different is that it allows HIV-positive men to discuss the difficult issues they face, such as disclosure of HIV, living with a terminal illness, and the impact on one's sexual life," said Cynthia Gomez, assistant professor of medicine with UCSF. "And it is all designed to take place in a safe, fun environment."

The research team hopes to enroll 500 men over the next year. Participants will be assigned at random to different groups; one group will meet weekly and the other will come together for a one-time event. The men will be interviewed at different intervals about their attitudes and behavioral patterns.

The program was developed in consultation with a 15-member community advisory board comprised of HIV-positive men in the Bay Area. To enroll in the Bay Men research study, call (888) BAYMEN. For more information about the project, call (415) 597-9267. ▼

HIV ombuds program has new advocate

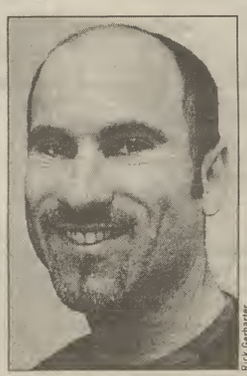
by Terry Beswick

The HIV Consumer Rights Advocacy Project was initiated last year by the People with AIDS Caucus of San Francisco's HIV Health Services Planning Council, also known the Ryan White CARE Council. It was designed to help clients access services of the 60 agencies the council funds with millions of federal dollars, such as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Catholic Charities, Project Open Hand, and Shanti.

"If someone who has HIV in San Francisco is seeking services, and that service is denied, they go through the internal grievance process of that agency first," said Richard Bargetto, who was recently hired as the advocate for the program. Located at 1540 Market Street, suite 200, the program has an annual budget of $60,000, which was approved by the planning council.

If the client is not satisfied with the agency's internal review, they then can contact Bargetto, and he will attempt to mediate the dispute on the client's behalf.

A volunteer attorney for eight years with the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Bargetto himself tested positive for HIV about six years ago.



Rick Gerharter

Richard Bargetto

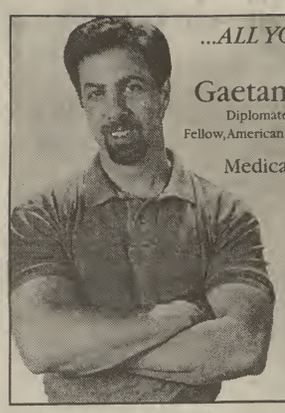
"I was and am a client of many of these agencies myself, and consider myself an expert on the problems people can face trying to access their services," he said, adding that he will also help people get through agencies' internal grievance processes, if needed.

Not surprisingly, most of the clients he has seen since the Market Street office was opened are seeking assistance with housing.

"I had a client today; he was on the housing waiting list for three years, and Peter Claver [AIDS housing program] denied him because he had a domestic violence background," Bargetto said, adding that he is appealing the decision, while asking the agency to provide documentation supporting it.

"The whole thing was set up to help people who were falling through the cracks," he said. "My job is to help fill in some of those cracks." ▼

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SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Proposition A Vote YES
Recreation and Parks Bonds

This bond issue would set the deferred maintenance policy of the recreation and parks commission. For too long the city has ignored the fact that many of our public parks and recreation areas are a public disgrace. It's about time to face up to this fact and do something. Vote YES.

Proposition B Vote YES
Academy of Sciences Bonds

The Academy of Sciences is a private nonprofit organization that operates the Natural History Museum, Steinhart Aquarium, Morrison Planetarium and other facilities located in Golden Gate Park. The city owns the land and the buildings. Another of the same old story: no maintenance. These buildings are earthquake damaged and are simply falling apart. Act now before we lose these important educational facilities. Vote YES on Prop. B.

Proposition C Vote YES
Open Space Funds

This is a charter amendment that would set aside and fund the open space fund for an additional 30 years. The funds are a set aside from property taxes and would not increase. The mayor and the Board of Supervisors could issue revenue bonds only if this fund could pay and maintain them. A good idea from a fragmented board that all 11 supervisors agreed on. Vote YES on Prop. C.

Proposition D Vote YES
Board of Supervisors Benefits

Our supervisors enjoy the lowest pay in the Bay Area. We should at least pay the full cost of health benefits as enjoyed by other city employees. They should also be added to the city employee retirement system. Insurance benefits would be about $70,000 annually; no cost for several years on pension funds. Vote YES on Prop. D.

Proposition E Vote NO
Public Assistance Benefits

We find this whole proposition is meanspirited and bigoted. To target a small amount of abusers of the system is like throwing the baby out with the bath water. The amount of money saved is small compared to other funds that are even more abused. The small amount these people get is barely enough to keep them alive while trying to keep their self-esteem. On top of the "savings" by cutting off the revenue, it would cost us an additional $6 million for more fat bureaucrats. No thanks. Vote NO on E.

Proposition F Vote NO
Bayview-Hunters Point Reparations

How utterly ridiculous to waive all property and business taxes for five years. We can see the freeloaders moving into the district to beat paying taxes. Why should one group of the city not pay taxes? We cannot see the special circumstances for such a tax waiver. Vote NO on Prop. F.

STATE PROPOSITIONS

Proposition 1A Vote YES
Gambling on Tribal Lands

This proposition was put on the ballot by the Legislature. It defines what kind of gambling can occur on Indian lands. It cleans up some of the problems with 1998's Proposition 5. Let's help the tribes become independent and self-sufficient. We voted overwhelming for Proposition 5. Let's do the same for Prop. 1A. Vote YES.

Proposition 12 Vote YES
Safer Neighborhoods, Parks, Clean Water and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000

The title of this proposition sums up all that it is supposed to do. There are also strict accountability laws attached to this bond measure; public hearings and annual audits are part of this act. We must support clean water, clean air, and coastal protection. We urge a YES vote on Prop. 12.

Proposition 13 Vote YES
Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond

We take too many things for granted in the state of California, drinking water is one of them. This bond act promises to clean up watersheds, clear up brooks, streams, and rivers to make our water supply purer and healthier. You have read in the local press how many of our own water supplies in the Bay Area are having problems due to deferred maintenance. Placed on the ballot by the Legislature, it deserves your support. Vote YES on Prop. 13.

Proposition 14 Vote YES
California Reading and Literary Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act

This bond act would allow local authorities (cities, towns, villages) in California to get up to 65 percent in state funding for doing this kind of work. Priority is given to joint ventures between schools and libraries. We urge a YES vote on Prop. 14.

Proposition 15 Vote YES
Crime Laboratories Construction Bonds

Local police and prosecutors are at a standstill in many cases because of ancient crime labs. This act promises to clean up these old labs, build new ones, and speed up the justice system. No money in this act would go for any administrative salaries, it deserves your support. Vote YES for Prop. 15.

Proposition 16 Vote YES
Veterans' Homes Bond Act

Like many buildings that are state owned or operated our veterans' buildings are also the victims of age and earthquakes, as well as deferred maintenance. Many times structures like these are the only home for many of the California veterans. Many are mentally troubled and require extraordinary care. Please make these buildings safe for human habitation. Vote YES on 16.

Proposition 17 Vote YES
Lotteries, Charitable Raffles

While many charities already use raffle-like funding techniques, they are still illegal in this state. This bill would clear up some of this language and allow bonafide charities to use raffles or lotteries as fundraisers. Vote YES on Prop. 17.

Proposition 18 Vote NO
Murder – Special Circumstances

It seems as if every ballot we receive has additional circumstances added to one type of crime or another. All we do is add to already crowded prisons. These prisons are an ugly fact of life that will explode in our faces someday. Let's throw out the death penalty and strive to rehabilitate prison inmates. We urge a NO vote on Prop. 18.

Proposition 19 Vote NO
Murder – BART and CSU Peace Officers

We keep up these special circumstances laws and pretty soon you may face a death penalty or life imprisonment for a dumb traffic violation. Again we urge a NO vote on Prop. 19.

Proposition 20 Vote NO
California State Lottery Allocation for Instructional Materials

What kind of con job is this? Under current lottery regulations you can spend your money on textbooks, safety equipment or computers. This locks in 50 percent of any increases (at the '97-'98 level) in the California state lottery for textbooks whether you need them or not. Don't surrender local school control to the state, vote NO on Prop. 20.

Proposition 21 Vote NO
Juvenile Crime

Like the earlier proposition on murder, this proposition should also be denied. Our courts already have the authority to move juveniles 14 and older into adult courts. The proposition also is very costly to maintain and execute. We think the state laws are quite clear. Vote NO on Prop. 21

Proposition 22 Vote NO
Limit on Marriages (aka the Knight Initiative)

Probably the most bigoted item on the ballot, we have not seen anything like it since the Briggs initiative. You don't have to be gay or lesbian to vote against this proposition. Just believe in a few basic values and keep government out of our private lives. Vote NO, NO, NO on Prop. 22.

Proposition 23 Vote NO
"None of the Above" Ballot Option

We deserve better choices and more voting power, not less. This initiative is nonbinding and the top vote-getter still gets elected. This doesn't do anything for better government. Vote NO on Prop. 23.

Proposition 25 Vote NO
Election Campaigns, Contributions and Spending Limits, Public Financing Disclosures

This ballot measure is brought to us by the very rich Ron Unz, once a Republican candidate for governor, then U.S. senator. A bad piece of legislation that creates bigger loopholes for the very rich. Our tax dollars could be spent on broadcast funding and some printed materials. As a community we could have paid for advertising for Proposition 22, the Knight initiative. Vote NO on Prop. 25.

Proposition 26 Vote YES
School Bonds – Local Majority Vote

This would end a state-mandated 2/3 vote for passage of school bonds back to a simple majority. Many parts of the state are having problems getting the higher vote needed to pass school bonds. We urge a YES vote on Prop. 26.

Proposition 27 Vote NO
Election Term Limits for Congress

While this initiative is not binding, it's a dumb move in the wrong direction. Term limits is not the answer to our political problems. It's getting qualified candidates and moving more concerned citizens to polls. We have and support a government based on seniority; until we change this, no term limits. Vote NO on Prop. 27.

Proposition 28 Vote NO
Repeal of Proposition 10 Tobacco Surtax

This is another ploy by the tobacco industry to cut taxes on cigarettes. It would cut cigarette taxes by 50 cents a pack. If it passes, this bill would kill anti-smoking campaigns that have reduced tobacco sales 30 percent. It also would take over $600 million a year from children's health and preschool education programs. Say no to tobacco initiatives. Vote NO on Prop. 28.

Proposition 29 Vote NO
1998 Indian Gaming Compacts

This one would annul the agreement reached in 1998 between the governor and the tribes and subsequently passed by the Legislature. It seems our neighbors to the east are afraid of Las Vegas or Reno style gambling in California. There are built-in restrictions. We also note the supporters of the initiative call themselves the Committee on Moral Concerns. If Prop. 1A passes, this ballot measure is moot. Vote NO on Prop. 29; YES on Prop. 1A.

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LETTERS

Club lets man die to avoid publicity

When you are in a public establishment there is an implied responsibility which they assume for your welfare. Jeff Goring collapsed on the dance stage of Club Universe February 13, 2000 *[Bay Area Reporter, February 17]*. Rather than turning on the lights to give him proper assistance, he was given CPR by club employees and finally dragged into a back room. Fifteen precious minutes elapsed before he received proper medical assistance. Security and management are in constant communication by radio. They monitor how much money is coming in the front door. On February 13 they made a conscious decision to sacrifice a patron rather than disrupt a profitable night.

The clubs have been under attack due to the deaths from GHB. Clubs like the End Up have taken more than reasonable precautions to control the problem. Just as importantly they have lent proper assistance to their patrons who have fallen ill. 177 Townsend has failed at showing that they can take reasonable responsibility for their patrons. They should be closed until a full investigation has been completed to determine their worthiness in accepting responsibility for the welfare of the community.

Jeff had no history of drug use or for drinking in excess. He loved to be with the community and dance. His cause of death has yet to be determined. Whether he is a victim of bad health or foul play, it is certain he is a victim of the club.

Steve Cohen
San Jose, California

Gay marriage is the issue

I wanted to thank you for your column *["No on Knight comes out – sort of," February 10]*. You are the first person I've read whose seems to have an intelligent analysis of the campaign against Knight. Gay people marrying is the issue, not Proposition 22. By failing to address the real issue – gay marriage – we are losing an opportunity to have people talk about the issue, which is what getting out of the closet is about. Pete Knight, in his refusal to debate the issue, clearly recognizes that his position is indefensible on any basis except prejudice, and will therefore not repeat John Briggs's mistake of showing everyone what a bigoted moron he actually is.

What is really needed is lots of images of two men or two women saying, "Hi. We're Joe and John. We've been together for 20 years, we share each other's lives like a husband and wife would, we've been through the crises and joys together, but we can't get married, and this is what happens to us because of that." It is a tremendous opportunity to make our case and educate people. But we're not doing that.

And sadly, this is why I haven't sent much money to No on Knight. It's just pouring money down a rathole. It didn't work in Hawaii and it won't work here. And it is really too bad.

Ben Janken
Oakland, California

Reacting to 'eeewww' comments

The column Dale Carpenter wrote, "No on Knight comes out – sort of" *[February 10]* reminded me of an incident in Mazatlan winter before last.

I sat at a table occupied by three couples from Texas for lunch at a restaurant. They asked where I was from. I answered "San Francisco." One of the husbands responded with "Eeeewww, queers." His wife (or woman) punched him with her elbow. I did not know how to react. After all, I was in a foreign country.

What to do? Deny? Admit? Avoid? Then it occurred to me I might win friends without an admission.

I first said, well, if you got rid of all gays, in 20 years there would just be another generation of them. And I paraphrased the Hawaiian judge; gays have been marrying since the year one, but to heterosexuals and all hell often breaks loose. "Yeah, you're right," they said and we went into other subjects, and parted calmly after lunch with handshakes.

But the important thing is without saying it, I got them thinking about the evil of gays marrying straights, and implied in this approach that it would be better for gays to marry gays than straights.

It is also a fact that of the older gay crowd, a high percentage have been married due to pressures from others, or ignorance and further complicated the issue with kids.

This may seem too weak an approach, but I think that this type of folk might move slightly away from the eeewwww reaction toward understanding and possibly tolerance. Certainly, gays marrying gays might be the lesser of two evils to these types.

I do think that the No on 22 campaign should emphasize that the passage will cause gays to continue to marry straights because they would not have an alternative which they otherwise might have in the future.

Paul Goercke
San Francisco

Don't forget that DCCC race

On March 7 San Franciscans will be voting on many important national, state, and local issues and races including the Knight initiative (Proposition 22).

Unfortunately one race many voters may overlook is that for the Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC).

The DCCC is the governing body for the local Democratic Party. It sets party goals, does voter outreach and endorses and supports various candidates and issues. Because of the predominance of the Democratic Party in San Francisco, its endorsements carry a lot of weight and can often determine who and what wins on election day. For example, it was the DCCC that chose to endorse Willie Brown for mayor, resulting in Democratic Party funding and its apparatus going to work for his campaign and against Tom Ammiano.

There are a total of 58 candidates running for 24 seats on the DCCC; 33 people for 12 spots in the east side of the city (Assembly District 13) and 25 people for 12 spots in the west side (Assembly District 12). We urge *B.A.R.* readers not to overlook the significance of this race. Please take a little extra time to find out about these candidates. Their decisions could determine our future leaders and in turn, significantly effect our community's future.

Aaron Peskin, Robin F. Levitt, Wade Crowfoot
Candidates for the DCCC
San Francisco

We're not a 'real' couple

My oldest brother Allen, who was 52, died on February 1. For years my siblings and their families had acted like they accepted my partner Sara and me as a couple and as part of the family.

I'm sure they all thought they were being really generous. After all, we were invited to family gatherings and we got invitations and announcements addressed to both of us. In my brother's obituary, however, my siblings' and their spouses were all mentioned but my name stood alone. No mention of Sara.

Of course not. We're not a "real" couple. My deceased brother had been married and divorced four times – all "real" relationships – but my eight years with Sara don't count.

I called one brother about the obituary. He was bothered that his wife's name had been misspelled (Gaylene instead of Gayleen), but he thought I should be okay with the fact that I was listed as if I were single.

Sara and I have been together for nearly eight years. She's 45 and I'm 49 and we love each other very much. Our lives are fuller, more productive, and more satisfying because we have each other.

We own a house in a suburb of Salt Lake City, own two cars, work full time, pay taxes, and vote. We volunteer and donate to charity. We mow the lawn, paint the fence, put out the trash, buy Girl Scout cookies and keep an eye on the neighbors' houses when they aren't home.

We have two grown daughters and they love both of us, so they have two moms and one dad. Actually, they have three moms, 'cause their dad has been "going with" a nice woman for years. She's a really nice person and is good to Rudy and to our daughters. Rudy and Ronni could get married if they wanted, but that's up to them. We all get along and care about each other.

Sara and I would like to be able to get health insurance for each other. When Sara gets sick again or needs treatments (she has metastatic breast cancer), I'd like to take family leave at work to take care of her and to be with her. I hope I won't have to fight for the right to take time off, but I probably will. When one of us dies, we don't legally have a right to take bereavement leave. Maybe our employers will be "generous" and let us take time off. Maybe not.

A popular argument says that to let us legalize our relationship, to let us use the word "marriage," would somehow be a danger to other people's families, to their marriages and to "society." Sara and I both grew up Mormon and come from Mormon families. The Mormon Church is working hard against Proposition 22 in California.

In my opinion, no one has adequately explained how allowing us to marry would be harmful.

Oh, yeah, that's right. My family might have to pay for another word or two in the next obituary. As far as I'm concerned, until they do, they can leave my name out, too.

Kathy Worthington
Taylorsville, Utah

Signers needed for SF leather event

As producer of the Mr. San Francisco Leather contest I am requesting community help for volunteer signers on the night of the contest which is Friday, March 10 at Club Townsend. Insofar as Mr. SFL is always a fundraiser for various charities, we are concerned with keeping costs to a minimum. Savings in

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Mailstrom

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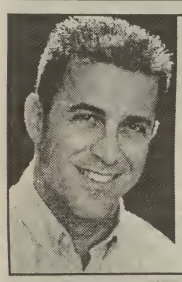
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costs associated with the contest ensures a greater donation to our selected charities.

Any volunteers interested in signing that evening should contact me at (415) 621-1188 days or (415) 585-0288 evenings.

Patrick Batt, Producer
Mr. San Francisco Leather 2000

Flight 261 victim recalled

I was saddened to read about the passengers on Alaska Airlines Flight 261 (February 3). I attended high school with Jay Luque, who was mentioned in the *B.A.R.* article. We hadn't seen each other in more than 20 years, but when I read about his death I had a sense of loss. When we were teenagers, he had been very friendly with me – often shouting my name clear from the opposite end of the school building – trying to help me overcome my extreme shyness. Jay wasn't spoiled or affected the way some teenagers are. Whatever he said or did, he was just himself.

The *B.A.R.* is more inclined than some publications to treat the subjects of news stories as individual human beings. The mainstream media offered an extensive follow-up on the Flight 261 tragedy, but they sometimes did it by taking television cameras to memorial services. The dignity of the crash victims and their loved ones was not always respected. The *B.A.R.* showed excellent judgment in refraining from similar intrusions.

Sometime in the near future, the friends, partners, and other family members of the people mentioned in your article should be given an opportunity to comment on those people's contributions. When a human life is lost, it affects many of us.

Ann Mason
San Francisco

No answers from Healing Alternatives

Several months ago, Healing Alternatives Foundation closed its doors, promising to reopen at the end of last summer. Despite repeated letters, calls, and e-mails to members of the board, HAF has failed to provide any answers about the status or future of the buyer's club.

Rumors abound. I am owed money (though I'm certainly willing to waive it if I can get a decent explanation – more than many, I can understand the vicissitudes of nonprofits). Where has the explanation to the community been?

Luke Adams
Oakland, California

Searching for compassion in Texas

Like most Americans, I have been struggling with the concept of "compassionate conservatism" – what does it mean, how does it work, and who will benefit from it. We have all heard the candidates spout meaningless, single-issue platitudes, designed as sound bites to placate special interest groups or the simple-minded. But concrete programs or in-depth explanations of their proposals are far from forthcoming. Yet the appeal of a compassionate politician resonates within us all. We long for a politician who takes our issues to heart, one who truly will be a representative of the people. Isn't that what democracy is all about?

By definition, compassion means the "deep feeling of sharing the suffering of another, together with the inclination to give aid or support or to show mercy." But something is fundamentally wrong here. If compassion is at the heart of the new conservative platform, if sharing suffering and dispensing aid, support or merciful judgments is at the core of the new conservative ethos, then we are being sold a bill of goods. But perhaps the result of this political dichotomy is all in the definition. A "deep feeling of sharing suffering" is a world of difference away from actually suffering. And we all know that if we are "inclined to do something" we are not morally bound to actually do something, when it comes to push or shove.

Perhaps this explains the actions of presidential contender and governor of Texas, George W. Bush. Under Bush's stewardship, the Texas treasury in 1999 was bloated with a $6.7 billion surplus, yet "W," although he has been governor for five years, still has no idea what the state needs or has any desire to turn the money loose to make things better for ordinary people who could use the help. Texas ranks 50th in per capita spending, 50th in spending for teachers' salaries, 49th in environmental spending, 49th in spending for the arts, 48th for parks and recreation, 48th in per capita spending for public health, 47th for delivery of social services, 46th for police protection, 45th for public libraries, 42nd for child-support collections, 40th for natural resources, and 32nd for higher education.

Texas ranks fifth in teenage pregnancies, but 45th in supplying pre-natal care. Texas ranks fifth in people living in poverty and also has the highest percentage of children living without healthcare (1.4 million). Along with the highest percentage of poor parents working without insurance, Texas is No. 1 in air and water pollution. Governor Bush also has the dubious honor of putting more people to death since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. Texas would be No. 1 in prison population if Louisiana hadn't edged it out. Texas ranks ninth in what it spends on prisons, but 41st in what it spends on kindergarten through 12th grade. If this represents the "compassionate conservative" agenda, if this is an indication of what we can expect when GW buys his way into the White House, if this is the direction conservatives want to take the country, then, thanks but no thanks, you can keep it.

Gerald Wadsworth
Richmond, Virginia

Who's afraid of the 'V' word?

In response to a letter by John Cailleau *[Mailstrom, February 17]*. Y'know John, maybe you're right about designer queers taking over the Castro. Yeah, I hate people smoking in bars and too much Polo or Halston or Obsession fucks up my sinuses. Yeah, Willie Brown has got money on the mind. Yeah, the Alice B. Toklas Club acted like a bunch of cronies to Da Mayor. Yeah, chain stores homogenize a neighborhood into a white-bread-with-mayo-sandwich-like character. You've got some great points to bitch about, but what the hell do you have against women or ironing for that matter.

Someone dared to bring a woman into the Powerhouse! Oh god! Heaven help us! However will we survive as gay men if we have to somehow come to terms with our own inbred misogyny (a 25 cent word meaning the hatred of women).

Somebody tell me, why women are such a threat to queens who don't notice anyone they don't want to fuck? Why are the white gay males so intolerant of anyone without a dick? Yeah, she was an asshole for smoking in a bar. Yeah, if she was acting like a dickhead and disrespecting she probably was at the wrong bar. But gawking? Come on! It's the Powerhouse. It's a place for exhibitionist and other openly perverted and wholesome acts. You don't like people gawking? Try, oh I don't know, not having sex in public places? Or is it just easier to run screaming "Ahhhh, a vagina. That person has a vagina. Help. Help. I am threatened by the presence of a vagina."

I for one am not afraid of vaginas (I spent the first nine months of my life in intimate proximity to one).

I would remind you that intolerance from an oppressed group asking for tolerance themselves seems, well, assholish. If you've seen the film *Pink Flamingoes* you know that assholism is punishable by death.

James Danforth
San Francisco

Use your vote

The *San Francisco Examiner* of February 7 described a "prayer breakfast" where Campus Crusade for Christ and state Senator Pete Knight compared gay marriage to "Nazi Germany and the filth and pornography of another kingdom." A recent TV commercial says it's "common sense" that marriage is between a man and a woman, a pro-Knight ad. Oddly, it once seemed it was "common sense" that blacks, Latinos, Asians, and other racial minorities were suitable hate outlets. Now it's sexual minorities. Odd they're not as vocal about "cardinal sins" like murder.

It seems sad we have few powerful voices for gay rights in the national media. Is it because in an "I've got mine" culture, the educated and influential gays just pay the excessive taxes for diminished service like paying the ticket rather than spend more time looking for a legal parking space. That younger gays ghettoized in one of the few cities in the country where being gay is secondary to who you are, competing for limited housing rather than face "equality" elsewhere, are so caught up in narcissism, hedonism, and the "eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die" mindset I've seen escalate over 20 years.

Years ago, Dade County was able to pass laws against gay teachers, in spite of Miami's large gay population, because, believing this "could never happen," they didn't vote, so the "sex regulators" won out.

I believe that President Clinton broke great ground with "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and Al Gore will continue protecting the rights of all individuals against powerful opposition. Religious right Republicans are not only anti-gay, but anti-black, anti-Semitic, anti all minorities, using deep unconscious fears to manipulate through the "heaven for us" illusion.

My rights as an equal taxpayer in the U.S.A. denied, my intelligence insulted by money-sucking "Christian creationists," my wealth jeopardized by a virus of questionable origin in the community, at least there's a vote at our disposal, a vote each of us must, as an act of self-validation, use.

Openly, then, I dare any of these pompous pundits telling me whom I can love to raise someone who's clinically dead, cause a crippled hand to restore to whole, restore sight to one legally blind, or heal a cripple to "jump and sing and praise the Lord." Wishful thinking aside, other than a $500 "gay deduction," rational objectivity is the only hope.

S. Paris-Adams, aka Anand
San Francisco

Al Gore on gay issues

by Wayne Friday



Official White House photo

Vice President Al Gore with San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno

Last week the Human Rights Campaign, the largest lobby and fundraising group for the rights of gays and lesbians in the country, endorsed Vice President **Al Gore** over his rival, former New Jersey Senator **Bill Bradley**, for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. HRC's endorsement of Gore was the political payback for the front-running Democrat's years of support for the rights of gays, and clearly gives the vice president an important leg up on the growing influential gay vote in the country in general and in the important March 7 California primary in particular.

While Gore, like Bradley, opposes gay marriage, he strongly opposes California's Proposition 22, and supports same-sex couples receiving equal benefits to married heterosexuals. Gore recently told gay-rights activists in New York that if elected president, he would set up a panel to study how same-sex partnerships should be recognized. "I do not support changing the institution of marriage as it's traditionally been understood as between a man and a woman," Gore said, but added that as president, "I would appoint a working group or commission to recommend how domestic partnerships should be recognized." In a political shot at Texas Governor **George W. Bush**, who Gore believes will be his Republican opponent in the November general election, Gore pointed out that Texas is one of 39 states where workers can still be fired for their sexual preference.



Our Man Friday

After President **Bill Clinton** recently admitted that his own "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy isn't working, Gore said the policy should be scrapped and lesbians and gays should be allowed to serve openly in the military. A political firestorm erupted over the statement and Gore was forced to drop a promise made days earlier to use a pro-gay litmus test for appointing members of the military's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

On the issue of gays and lesbians adopting children, the vice president supports local jurisdictions being free to judge prospective parents' fitness and generally believes responsible gays and lesbians should be able to adopt children. Gore backers in the gay community point out that the vice president has for years supported the Employment Non-discrimination Act, noting that the Clinton-Gore administration issued an executive order banning discrimination based on sexual orientation in the federal workplace. Gore also has long been on record as supporting the federal Hate Crimes Prevention Act and has continually publicly denounced anti-gay violence, saying that he calls on Congress to "come together in one voice on this issue," urging them to stand together "against intolerance, prejudice, and against violent and senseless bigotry" and to pass the HCPA.

As vice president, Gore has worked closely with the White House in helping to obtain increased funding for AIDS-related programs; he takes pride in pointing out that since the beginning of the Clinton-Gore administration, funding assistance to help provide for the purchase of AIDS drugs has increased by 854 percent. In addition, the Ryan White CARE Act, which provides a variety of AIDS services to low-income people living with HIV was increased by more than 29 percent.

On other health-related issues, Gore points to his leadership in the administration for having fought for legislation to preserve the Medicaid guarantee of coverage for people living with HIV/AIDS, noting that more than 50 percent of those living with the disease and more than 90 percent of children with AIDS, rely on Medicaid coverage for their insurance. At Gore's insistence, the Clinton administration also expanded Social Security Disability Insurance converge for people who are HIV-positive, banned insurance discrimination based on AIDS/HIV, and has worked to improve health care for lesbians. Another area where the vice president proudly points to having influence is in the Clinton administration's diversifying appointments; the Clinton-Gore administration has become an example of inclusiveness and diversity by appointing more than 150 gay men and lesbians to the judicial and executive branches of government.

Politics and people

Think the San Francisco homeless problem isn't a big story? The *New York Times* ran a front-page story a few weeks back with no less than six photos, suggesting the city is being overrun by the homeless and their shopping carts, and further suggesting that nearly everyone here, including those most sympathetic to their plight, have just about "had it" with the growing army of panhandlers who continually hassle residents and tourists alike. In spite of this, Proposition E on the March 7 ballot in San Francisco that would replace most General Assistance cash with vouchers, is an unwise, unworkable solution.

Oops, in a recent column on the gay and lesbian candidates for Democratic County Central Committee, I inadvertently left off the name of **Paul Hogan**, a candidate in the 12th District; Hogan says he is "most certainly an out gay man," is a respected activist with the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, and is most certainly worthy of your vote on March 7th. Additionally, I inadvertently left off the name of **Chris Dittenhafer**, another gay resident running in the 12th District. Dittenhafer is a member of the city's Taxi Commission.

The San Francisco chapter of the predominately gay Log Cabin Republican Club has endorsed Arizona Senator **John McCain** for president, Representative **Tom Campbell** for U.S. Senate, strongly opposes Proposition 22, supports local Propositions A, B, C and E, and opposes Propositions D and F.

Never mind that Daddy **George Bush** served as **Ronald Reagan**'s vice president; look for former First Lady **Nancy Reagan** to cut a TV commercial endorsing Arizona Senator John McCain in the March 7 California GOP primary any day now.

Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, doing one of the things she does best, raised a whopping $75,000 to fight the Knight initiative during a recent Sacramento reception.

And remember you read it here first – the recent prediction that **Ross Perot** will fight it out with the homophobic **Pat Buchanan** for the Reform Party's presidential nomination (for whatever it is worth). Look for Perot to announce his "availability" (read: candidacy) soon, possibly as early as his appearance this week on CNN's *Larry King Live* show.

Like rough politics? Those gay and lesbian political activists in New York state watching the upcoming **Rudy Giuliani-Hillary Rodham Clinton** U. S. Senate battle are predicting that with Giuliani being a moderate Republican who supports abortion, gay rights, and gun control, he now has to look long and hard for ways to court his party's right wing and they say that it is religion that might do the trick for him, pointing to a recent fundraising letter the mayor sent out attacking Mrs. Clinton for her "hostility toward America's religious traditions" and painting her as a member of the "left-wing elite" that has waged a "relentless, 30-year war against America's religious heritage." No doubt, the New York Senate race will be the most interesting, hard fought, mudslinging contest in the country for any Senate seat, but in the end, I'd put my money on the Democrat, first lady-turned-politico Hillary Rodham Clinton.

And how was your week? ▼

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What if they gave a march and no one came?

by Dale Carpenter

OutRight

Asked how she felt about the new millennium, drag persona Dame Edna Everidge responded, "I'm *trying* to feel something about it." A lot of gay women and men are similarly indifferent about the impending (some would say "looming") Millennium March on Washington for gay equality. But despite its many faults, we shouldn't be so lackadaisical about this march.

Seven years ago at this time, as the 1993 national gay civil rights march approached, awareness was high. People were talking about it. They were excited about it. There were local committees across the country organizing volunteers for it and getting march-related information to local groups. Stickers were dispensed at gay dance clubs and bars to encourage attendance.

Little of that seems to be happening this time around. If you didn't even know about the coming march, welcome to a rather large crowd. If you did know, then, quick: What date will it be held? (Sunday, April 30.)

Even if you did know the date, chances are, you've made no plans to go. You probably haven't even considered it.

Problems abound. There is considerable evidence of internal disarray and missteps by the march organization itself. Several board members and other key personnel – including the very able organizer, Robin Tyler – have resigned in the past year, citing disagreements over the direction and content of the event.

Organizers have sadly succumbed to the pressures of political correctness, concerning themselves so much with the numerical representation of different constituencies that the organizing board has become, well, unrepresentative. Thus, for example, the march board requires that 50 percent of its members be racial minorities and 50 percent be women. Yet these requirements are far larger than the actual proportion of women and racial minorities among all gays. And the board has pledged to give 30 percent of any profits to "national GLBT organizations of color," even though such groups are dwarfed in size and activity by non-racially-identified gay organizations.

At the same time, the march board has been oblivious to the need for *political* diversity. Thus, although at least one-third of gay voters routinely support GOP congressional candidates, there are no Republicans on the board, much less a formal requirement that conservative gays be represented. You can bet that same one-sidedness – so utterly unconnected to the reality of gay life in this country – will be evident in the speakers chosen for the event.

That's not to say I would favor a 33 percent quota for gay Republicans. Personally, I don't care if the march board is composed entirely of two-spirit lesbian snail darters of color as long as they actually make good decisions and help get the work done. But it shouldn't be surprising that we are unenthusiastic about a march that has obsessed more about identity politics than about promoting a coherent message.

And the march has predictably generated squabbling between the gay left and the extreme gay left. Ever since plans for the march were first announced two years ago, a small but loud band of perma-disgruntled activists has been complaining. According to one of these activists, they want "to create the mechanisms necessary for community involvement and democratic decision-making." (A word to the wise: whenever you hear the words "community" and "democratic decision-making," watch for a power grab.) To achieve this, they would have the march planned at a mass meeting where every gay organization in the country – no matter how large or small, no matter how active or inactive – would get two votes. These people are a few clowns short of a circus.

Despite all this nonsense, supporters of gay civil rights should give serious consideration to attending the march. This is a presidential election year. Media attention to controversial social issues like equality for gay people is heightened. It's a sure bet the various candidates for president and Congress will be asked to give their reactions to the march and to the issues it raises.

This is, therefore, an opportunity for us to show a strong, confident, reasonable face to the rest of America. If we don't want this highly visible march to distort yet again what the country thinks of us, we need to show up.

If turnout is small or dominated by fringe causes, it will be another excuse for politicians to dismiss us. The perception will be that we can't get our political act together even when everything is on the line and the whole country is watching.

Sure, you could take the same money you'd spend on travel, meals, and lodging and donate it to other gay-related causes with greater effect. But nobody is actually going to do that. Let's be candid: it's either go to the march or

next page ▶

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Winter 2000 Schedule

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FRIDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

THIS LEAGUE IS A HUGE SUCCESS. LEAGUE STARTS ON MARCH 17, 2000. 3 BOWLERS TO A TEAM (TRIOS) - MEN, WOMEN OR MIXED. COST IS $13.25 PER BOWLER PER WEEK. LEAGUE BOWLS EVERY FRIDAY AT 6:30PM.

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3 BOWLERS TO A TEAM - MEN, WOMEN OR MIXED. ESTIMATED COST IS $12.50 PER PERSON PER WEEK, $40.00 SPONSOR FEE PER TEAM. LEAGUE BOWLS AT 5:20 PM ON MONDAYS, LEAGUE STARTS MARCH 27, 2000.

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Spring 2000 Schedule

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

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SUNDAY RAINBOW LEAGUE

HAVE SOME FUN EVERY SUNDAY EVENING. TEAMS ARE 4 BOWLERS - MEN, WOMEN OR MIXED. SO COME ON DOWN AND BOWL. COST IS $12.50 PER WEEK. LEAGUE BOWLS EVERY SUNDAY AT 6:00PM. LEAGUE STARTS MAY 14, 2000

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Go grrrl

by Jane Warner
and Ron McGlashan

16th and Sanchez, February 13, 12 a.m.: A woman was walking westbound on 16th near Sanchez when a man came from behind and grabbed her by the neck with both hands. The woman was able to escape his grasp by kicking and punching him. The assailant fell to the ground and the woman ran to Bagdad Cafe where she called the police. A search of the area for the suspect was negative. The man was described as 5 feet tall, stocky build, 50 years old, with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a black sweatshirt. The suspect did not say anything to the victim during the attack, so motive is unknown.

Swingers club

The Cafe, 2367 Market, February 12, 1:40 a.m.: After being asked to leave the bar for obnoxious behavior, an alleged drunk took a swing at the doorman, hitting him in the face. The man was detained and when police got there he allegedly took a swing at one of the officers. The man was wrestled to the ground and handcuffed. A search of his person revealed a 7-inch knife in his pocket. Booked for battery, carrying a concealed weapon, and an outstanding warrant was Igor Kulkov, 21.

Crime & Punishment

Musical chairs

500 block of Church, February 7, 10:30 p.m.: A woman heard a crashing sound, looked out her window and saw a man sitting in her parked car. The man left and the woman called police, then checked her vehicle and found the car's window smashed and some CDs missing. Responding police searched the area and found the suspect nearby with the woman's CDs in his pocket. Booked for theft from an auto was Anthony Bishop, 38.

Park ...

18th and Dolores, February 19, 12:45 p.m.: While walking on Dolores near 18th Street, a man was approached by two suspects who told him, "Give me your wallet." When the victim refused, both robbers punched the man and took his wallet containing about six dollars. The suspects are described as Hispanic males in their 20s, about 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighing 140 and 160 pounds. One of the suspects had a tattoo on his left arm, the other had a slicked back hair style. They fled southbound on Dolores from 18th Street.

... and ride

20th and Church, February 15, 11:30 p.m.: While sitting on a bench in Dolores Park after riding his bike, a man was approached by another man who handed him a note which read, "I have a gun, hand over your laptop and keep walking."

As the suspect picked up the victim's laptop, the victim started to go toward the robber. The suspect told him, "Can't you read? It's not worth getting shot over." The robber, described as an Hispanic male, 20-30 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighing 180 pounds, clean shaven, wearing a dark puffy jacket and dark pants, also took the man's 21-speed bicycle and was last seen riding eastbound on 18th toward Dolores. ▼

'In our Prime' workshops to serve older gays

by Katie Szymanski

If the gay social scene tends to exclude men over the age of 45, then HIV prevention and education models aimed at this crowd also tend to leave older men out in the dust.

"In our Prime," created by the community and presented though the Stop AIDS Project, will explore and celebrate the lives of older gay men, addressing their needs and concerns in the new era of the AIDS epidemic through a series of Wednesday night workshops in March.

This Wednesday, March 1, the group will host "Honoring the Past," a chance for men to mingle and share stories of coming out and surviving the early AIDS days. On March 8, "Don't Call Me Daddy" will address how to hold onto the pleasures of the body as it ages, especially in a youth-oriented gay culture. What mid-life challenges need addressing, and how can men stay involved? This workshop hopes to provide some answers. On March 15, "What's Next" will be a chance to harness the energies of older gay men, who will bring their ideas, passion, and experience to the meeting for both personal and community benefit.

All gay and bisexual men over the age of 45 are welcome; the purpose of the workshops is to sufficiently address the needs of older men in HIV prevention and education. The San Francisco Department of Public Health estimates that 35 percent of new seroconversions are among gay men over 40. Within the next few years, nearly 50 percent of people with an AIDS diagnosis in San Francisco will be over 40 years old.

To register, call (415) 575-0155 or e-mail Mike@stopaids.org. Participants must attend all three sessions and pre-registration is required. Space is limited. ▼

OutRight

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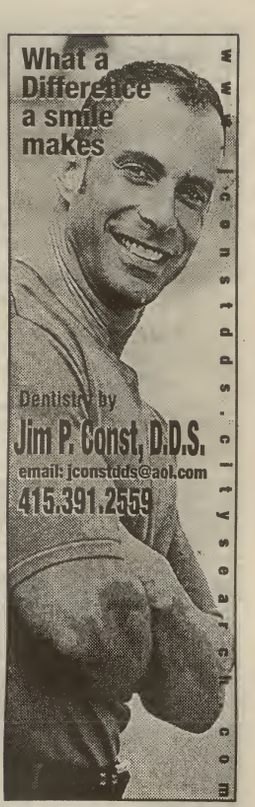
sit on your butt that weekend.

There will be time enough afterward to consider the larger questions, like whether these old-fashioned civil rights marches are really a good use of our time and money, and whether our growing ideological diversity precludes a movement-wide march from having a coherent agenda.

The time for debating the pros and cons of quotas and processes is past. Whatever you think about the march, it's going to happen. Let's make the best of it.

For more information about travel and lodging for the march, visit www.mmow.org or call (202) 467-8100. ▼

Dale Carpenter can be reached at OutRight@aol.com. For more, visit www.planetout. com.

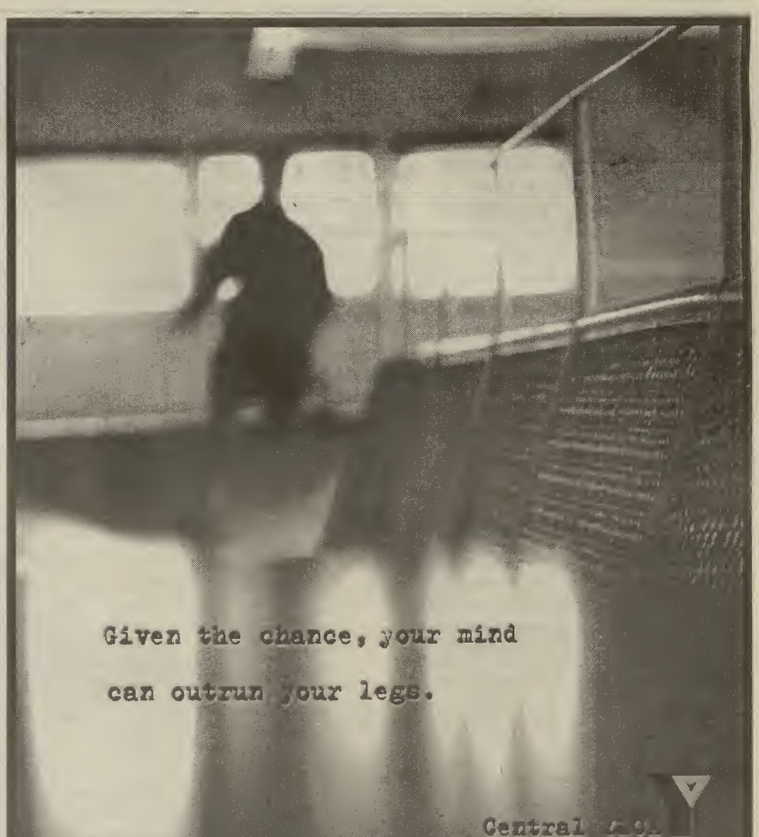




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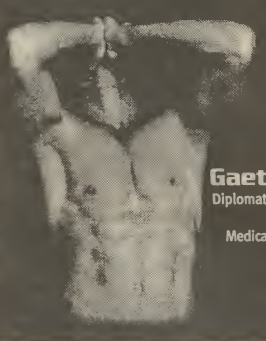
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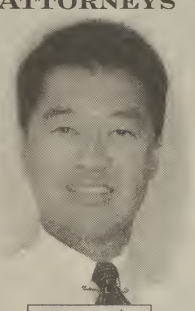
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Ten things in 10 days: What you can do to defeat Proposition 22

by Dan Aiello

With less than two weeks to go before Californians vote on Proposition 22, and the election now considered too close to call, the No on Knight campaign is urging everyone opposing the anti-gay initiative to do 10 things in 10 days to insure the measure's defeat.

Here are 10 things each of us can do to make an impact upon the election outcome:

1) Buy a book of stamps. Sit down and address envelopes to relatives, old college friends, and anyone else you can think of who lives in California. Remind them how discriminatory Proposition 22 is and how much you will appreciate their vote against this measure. Remind people in your life, past or present, that they know someone who will be hurt if this measure passes.

2) Speak out at work, in your class, at your church. Encourage those acquaintances to vote in this election. Many times people who would otherwise not care about a primary election will vote if they know they are helping someone they care about.

3) Print out your own poster by going to the No on Knight Web site: www.NoOnKnight.org. A sign for your house, car window or yard can be created in minutes.

4) Post a sign in your yard. Let your neighbors know there is someone close to them who will be hurt if they support Proposition 22. It's important to personalize this vote for every Californian.

5) Donate money. The No on Knight campaign is running on empty, but is able to print up signs and run local television ads every time they pull together enough funds. If you pick up a sign at the office, be sure to drop off some cash. Local businesses can sponsor 1,000 signs being printed or a TV ad spot. These last-minute contributions are critical to the campaign and will go for specific projects.

6) Volunteer for the phonebank. What better place to meet your new husband or wife, than working to defeat this initiative. The phonebank operates daily from now until election day.

7) Write two letters to the editor. Write a letter to the *San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner, Oakland Tribune,* or *San Jose Mercury News* locally, and for those who grew up in rural California, write a letter to your hometown newspaper. It's important that our message reaches all regions of California. We may have moved to the city, but we're the sons and daughters of all Californians.

8) Volunteer in the No on Knight office. Stuffing envelopes is a necessary job, even if it's not the most glamorous.

9) Call five friends on election day, March 7. Make sure our community and your friends remember how important their vote is to California, you, and all of us.

10) And finally, remember to vote! What difference can one vote make? Together, it can make all the difference in the world. You'll always know you did what you could to defeat this attack upon our community. ▼

You can reach the San Francisco No on Knight campaign office at (415) 227-1020, or visit the Web site at www.NoOnKnight.org. In the East Bay, call Peggy Moore at (510) 869-2214; in the South Bay, call Ross Nakasone at (408) 266-9687.

Prison board

◀ page 1

deaf inmates who use sign language could not communicate because they were handcuffed," stated the letter, which included a copy of an article about several lawsuits against Nielsen.

"We're hoping we can get the governor to see that this guy is more of a liability than anything," Esther Lee, co-chair of the Toklas Club, told the *Bay Area Reporter.* "His record is atrocious."

Nielsen was appointed by former Governor Pete Wilson, then reappointed by Davis in May 1999. His term is up in mid-March. Davis's office would not confirm or deny that the governor intended to keep Nielsen in his position. But prison activists say that while booting Nielsen may be a start, his departure will not solve the problems with prisons or parole hearings.

"The entire parole board needs to be replaced. They're all homophobic and racist," Judy Greenspan, chair of the HIV in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus, told the *B.A.R.* Additionally, noted Greenspan, no prisoners with a "to life" at the end of their sentence are even considered for parole, and that is the decision of the governor himself.

"I welcome any interest by the lesbian and gay community on prison issues. It's great that a gay club would respond to this possible reappointment," said Greenspan. "But Nielsen just epitomizes the issue. We also need to work on the governor."

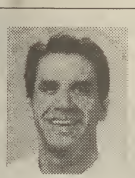
Lee agrees.

"For our group it's a first step. When it comes to true prison reform we're going to have to work on it one day at a time," she said. "The prison activists are the experts, and we're just here to lend them a hand in building a broad-based coalition."

Even if Nielsen were to be removed, it probably wouldn't help the situation of Rosenkrantz, who was ordered to be paroled last March; that order was blocked by Davis.

Rosenkrantz, now 32, was 18 when he shot his former schoolmate Steve Redman. Redman verbally harassed Rosenkrantz, clubbed him with a flashlight, and outed him to his father, who threw Rosenkrantz out of the house. Although Rosenkrantz is a model prisoner, Davis has vowed not to parole any convicted murderers.

Last month, a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge ordered a new parole hearing for Rosenkrantz. The order requires the Board of Prison Terms hold a parole hearing within 60 days. ▼



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Jane Philomen Cleland

Giants great Willie Mays, center, was at the Hamilton Recreation Center February 18 to pitch for city Propositions A and C that would provide funds for parks and open space. Joining Mays were Eddie Dobbins of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action, left, and Supervisor Mark Leno.

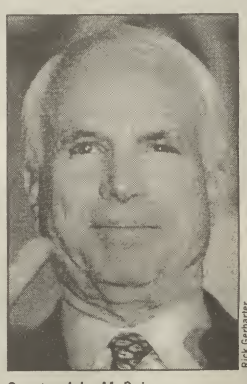
McCain's double victory

by Bob Roehr

Republican presidential hopeful Senator John McCain won both the Michigan and Arizona primaries Tuesday, February 22, and now leads Texas Governor George W. Bush in the delegate count. Meantime, Democratic rivals Vice President Al Gore and former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley sparred in a Monday night debate in New York's Harlem District that focused on race and urban issues.

McCain and Bush have garnered most of the media coverage during the last two weeks. That was because Republicans let the people decide through their votes in South Carolina, Michigan, and Arizona, while Democrats scheduled state party conventions or caucuses for later in the year.

Bush needed to win in South Carolina after the 19 point drubbing he took in New Hampshire,



Rick Gerharter

Senator John McCain

or his campaign was in danger of collapsing. He went negative and poured extra resources into the Palmetto State, a hotbed of the Christian Coalition, blanketing it with television commercials and phone calls.

Bush rallied to beat McCain by 53 to 42 percent Saturday, February 19. Much of the credit for the victory had to go to the strong backing and independent expenditures of organizations on the far right. But Bush's strong association with fundamentalists may backfire in other, less conservative parts of the nation.

McCain came roaring back

page 23 ▶

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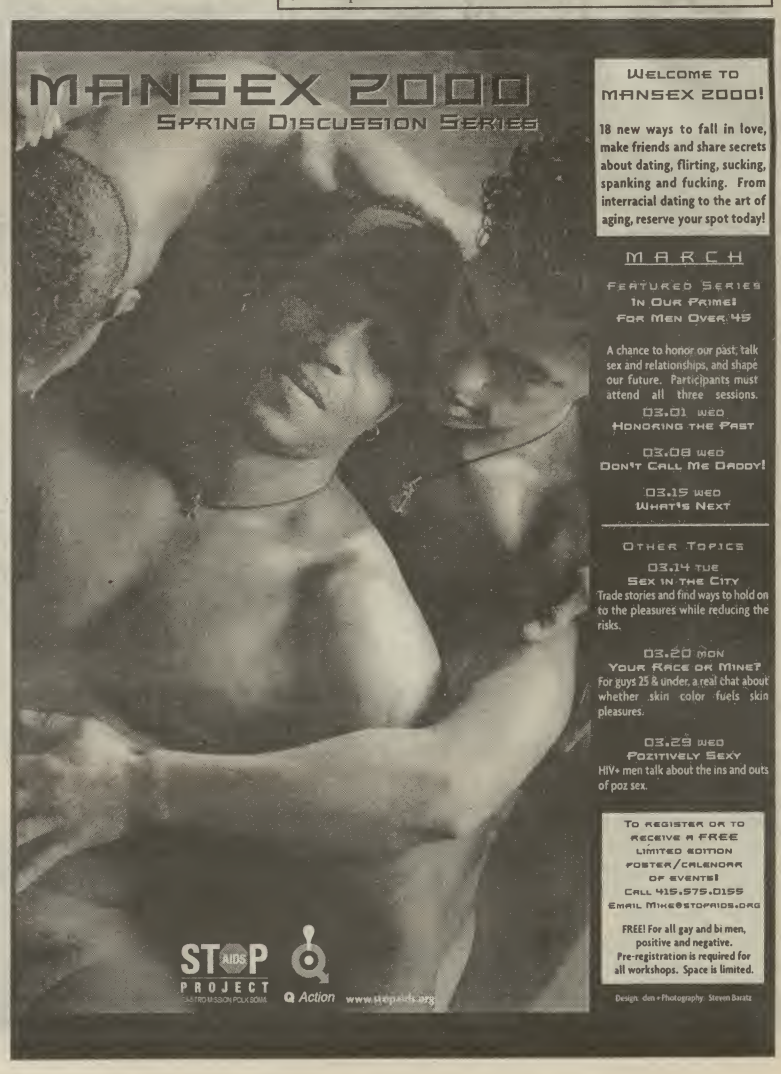
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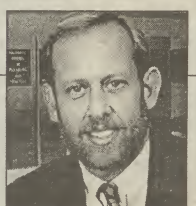
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Leather Archives and Museum celebrates grand opening in Chicago

by Liz Highleyman

Over 200 members of the leather/SM/fetish community gathered in Chicago last Sunday, February 20 to celebrate the grand opening of the Leather Archives and Museum. The opening ceremony produced both laughter and levity, with a rendition of Leather Jeopardy – starring *Bay Area Reporter* columnist Mister Marcus and local luminary FetishDiva Midori – and the presentation of the Centurion Awards honoring important figures in the leather community, past, present, and future.

Centurion Award recipients were selected by Joseph Bean as representatives of the major events and evolution of the leather community, and were given a ceramic boot award. Chuck Renslow, the founder of the International Mr. Leather contest as well as the LAM, was named Leatherman of the Century; Renslow is also an artist and a publisher, and opened the first leather bar, the Chicago Gold Coast, in 1958. Bean said that he had no trouble selecting Cynthia Slater as Leatherwoman of the Century. Slater was a leather/SM and bisexual activist and a professional dominant. She founded the Society of Janus in 1975 and is widely regarded as the "mother of pansexuality" for bringing together men and women and people of different sexual orientations within the leather/SM community. Slater was among the several recipients who died in the early years of the AIDS epidemic.

Other awardees "given the boot" in the highly emotional ceremony were local author Pat Califia; New York's Eulenspiegel Society; the Satyrs, the original gay motorcycle club formed in 1954; the Chicago Hellfire Club; Tony DeBlase, designer of the familiar Leather Pride flag; artist Tom of Finland; pioneering author Larry Townsend; "Drummer" cartoonist Pat Daley; New York's Gay Male SM Activists; and safer sex innovator Mack McKinnon. In addition, Centurion certificates were awarded to 22 other individuals or groups who have had a hand in shaping the leather community and its history, including San Francisco locals Mark I. Chester, Audrey Joseph, Mister Marcus, and Gayle Rubin. Finally, a series of "Watch Out 21st Century Certificates" recognized individuals and organizations whose current projects are expected to make a significant mark in the leather community in the next century.

The LAM was founded in 1992 by Renslow; he said that upon the death of his lover, the renowned leather/SM artist Dom "Etienne" Orejudos, he wanted to donate Orejudos's artwork to a museum, but realized that there was no suitable venue and he would have to start one himself. The archives began in Renslow's basement, and in 1995 were relocated to a storefront on Clark Street in Chicago. In August 1997, Bean was named LAM executive director. Soon, the archives outgrew this space as well, and a major fundraising drive was started to secure a permanent home for the museum. Donations were received from organizations and individuals throughout the world, and last summer, the LAM secured its new space, a former theater in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood. Many volunteers helped renovate the space to ready it for last week's opening.



Liz Highleyman

"Leatherman of the Century" Chuck Renslow, founder of the Leather Archives and Museum, shown with some of the many donated magazines.

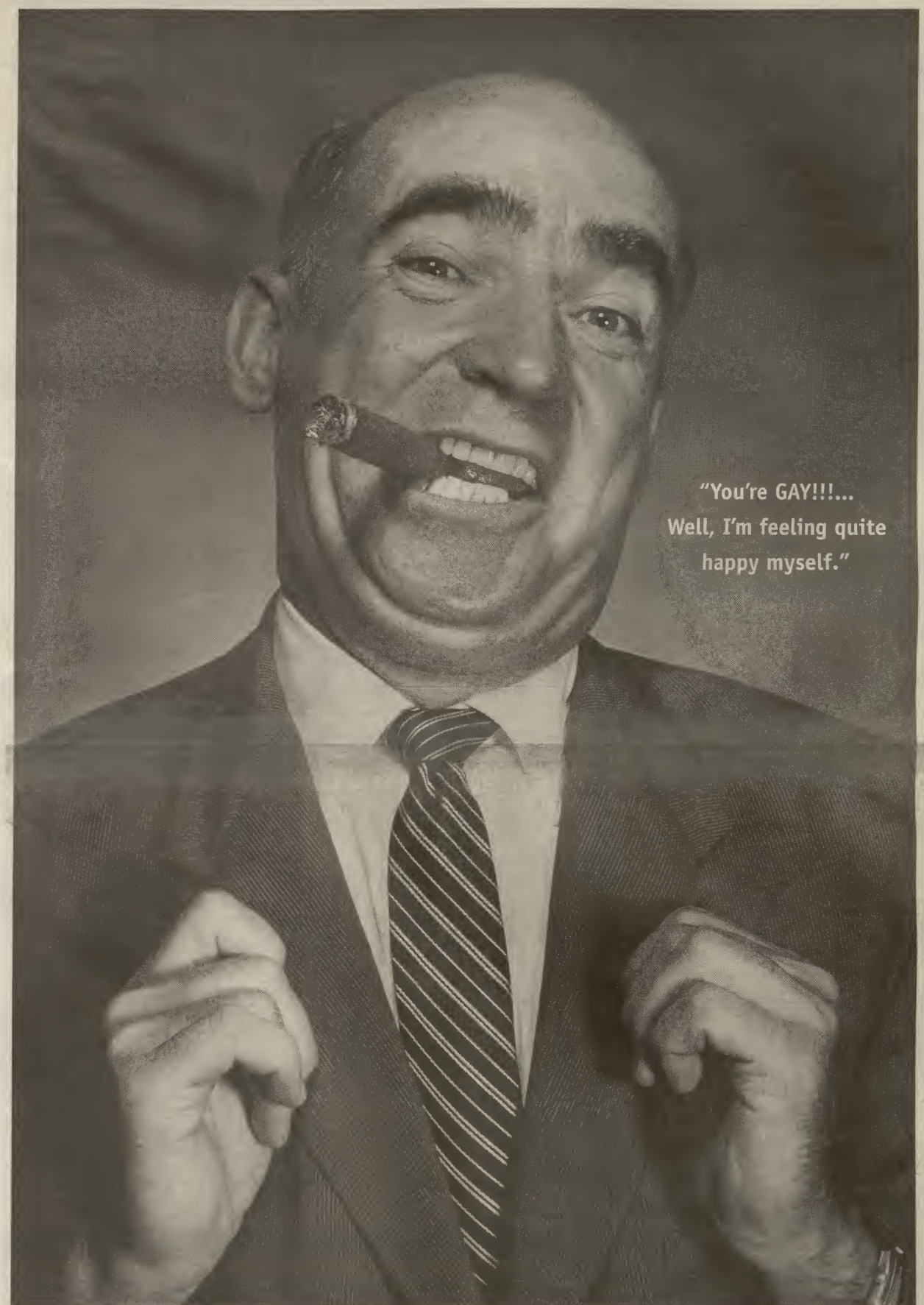
The new LAM building features a 160-seat theater named after Orejudos, the Teri Rose Memorial Library (currently in progress) and an archive room containing over 300 magazine titles, posters and artwork, club colors and pins, contest memorabilia, and papers donated by leather clubs and community members. An exhibition gallery features art, a T-shirt collection, titleholder sashes, and a leather history timeline that includes everyone from Aleister Crowley, to Lawrence of Arabia, to the Duke and Duchess of Windsor; gallery displays will rotate periodically.

Although much of the archive's initial collection focuses on gay men, the LAM strives to include materials related to all leather communities regardless of gender, orientation, or locality, as demonstrated by the motto, "Located in Chicago, Serving the World."

According to Bean, "by supporting the archives and putting the records of [their] lives into the collections, [the leather/SM community] has done in next to no time what other communities in this country and around the world have taken a century to accomplish." The LAM is still accepting donations to its capital campaign to help pay off the building's mortgage by 2004; Bean said he hopes that the contributions of individual and foundation donors will enable the museum to stand on its own, allowing the leather community's fundraising efforts to focus on other worthy causes. Volunteers and materials (preferably with comprehensive date and identification information) are also needed.

Said Bean, "In the past, there has been little or no retained record of leather lifestyles. Now, with the LAM on the job, we will not disappear as the time of our lives becomes the history of our time." ▼

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15 Association turns 20

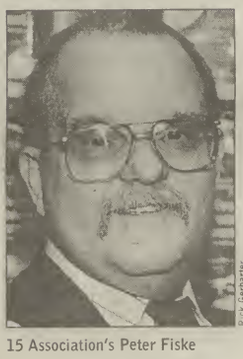
by Liz Highleyman

This weekend, the 15 Association, a social and sexual fraternal organization for men in the leather/SM community, will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a series of events.

Tomorrow (Friday, February 25), Mayor Willie Brown will present a community service proclamation to the club at a City Hall reception at 4 p.m. According to Peter Fiske, former chairman of the 15 Association, this is believed to be the first time a mayor of any U.S. city has personally received a leather/SM organization.

Following the reception will be an anniversary dinner at the Cliff House restaurant. Other weekend events include an anniversary play party on Saturday evening and an afternoon play party on Sunday followed by a buffet dinner. Fiske said many out-of-town guests are expected, including several members of the Chicago Hellfire Club.

The 15 Association was founded in 1980 and currently has 140 members throughout the U.S. and in four other countries; most members live in California. The name comes from the fact that the club has a maximum of 15 full voting members. The 15 Association is a leather/SM club, but is based on a motorcycle club model. Several of the founding members of the 15 Association were involved in the mixed-gender, mixed-orientation Society of Janus, which celebrated its 25th anniversary last year; the 15 Association was started by men who wanted a club specifically for men. While some of the club's social events welcome women, play parties are open to men only. For nearly 20 years, the 15 Association has held a play party each month, with an average attendance of 60-100 men.



Rick Gerharter

15 Association's Peter Fiske

Over the years the 15 Association has become well-known for its extensive fundraising. The club has raised many thousands of dollars for the AIDS Emergency Fund. The group has also provided computers for the Positive Resource Center, funded scholarships for gay students, and raised money for the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago. The 15 Association also has its own fund, named after founding member Alexis Sorel, that provides grants to people living with AIDS. In addition, the club has been active in promoting safer sexual and SM practices, and was one of the first sponsors of the *SM Sex ... Safely* booklet produced by the Stop AIDS Project.

Fiske said that members of the 15 Association are active not only in the club but also as individuals, noting that "some of the gay male SM community's most active members are in our club." ▼

For more info about the anniversary events, call the 15 Association hotline at (415) 673-0452.

Further obstacles ahead for Southern California high school gay-straight alliance

by Katie Szymanski

Orange County, California is not yet Utah, but members of the school board there are doing all they can to keep a gay-straight alliance from meeting on its high school campus.

After a U.S. District Court ruled February 4 that a gay student club at El Modena High School could meet while the case for its existence goes to trial, the Orange Unified School District considered following the example of a school in Salt Lake City that banned all extracurricular activities at the high school in order to legally ban the gay group.

Instead, the Orange school board banned all clubs at the elementary and middle school level last week, then asked its attorneys to draft resolutions that would set new regulations for students in high school clubs. The requirements are expected to state that students must have a C average to join clubs, that sexual activity cannot be discussed in school clubs, and that parental consent is needed for students to join clubs. It is the last requirement that attorneys for the students are worried about, according to Jon Davidson, supervising attorney for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in Los Angeles.

"There's a very large concern that this is designed to discourage students from joining the gay-straight alliance," Davidson told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

After all, those kids afraid to go to their parents are the ones who would need the club the most. But Davidson emphasized that the school board would not implement its new regulations until the next school year, so for now the focus remains on the upcoming trial.

The battle over the student group will continue in court, but in the meantime, the group can assemble on school grounds. The group has already held two meetings on campus; the first was attended by 58 people and was greeted with a protest demonstration. The second meeting was peaceful and welcomed 68 students and faculty, including the principal.

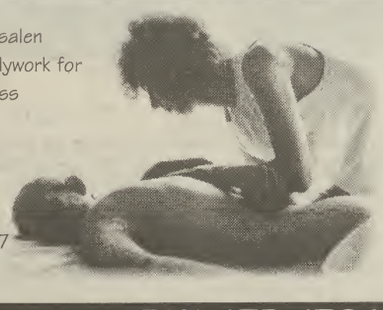
The gay-straight alliance seems assured of an eventual victory under the guarantees of the Federal Equal Access Act and the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment. Additionally, Santa Monica Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl's AB537 that prohibits public school discrimination on the basis

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Gays rally for Bradley Sat.

Gay and lesbian supporters of Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley have announced they'll hold a rally this Saturday, February 26 at 18th and Castro streets. Gay supporters of the former New Jersey senator include A. Toni Young, Jeff Ward, the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club, and former Milk Club president Jeff Sheehy. Supervisor Tom Ammiano, another Bradley supporter, is expected to attend the rally, which starts at 11 a.m. Young said people are welcome to stop by to pick up Bradley literature. – **Cynthia Laird**

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Rethinking HIV therapy

by Bob Roehr

Strategic interruption of therapy, or structured treatment interruption (STI) is "the flavor of this year," said Dr. David Ho, vice chair of the seventh Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. While data is skimpy, the hope is that stopping all anti-HIV drugs for some period of time is not only possible, it may even be beneficial.

Who should stop? When should they stop? And how long should they stop? Those basic questions are all unanswered, but the fact that clinical trials are being put together to find answers is cause for optimism among activists and researchers alike.

This paradigm shift in thinking comes from integrating new pieces of information into a unified whole. The hope that protease inhibitor-based combination therapy would be powerful enough to purge the body of HIV has long waned, while evidence of long-term side effects of these drugs continues to grow. The risk/benefit ratio no longer tilts overwhelmingly to a presumption that everyone should be on therapy at all times.

More recent and less understood are three surprising developments. In late 1998, Dr. Veronica Miller showed that when patients stopped therapy, some types of drug resistant virus tended to fade into the background and the original drug susceptible wild



Bob Roehr

Dr. David Ho

type virus reemerged to become dominate. This virus was more easily suppressed when therapy was restarted.

This year, Dr. Steven Deeks, a researcher at the University of California, San Francisco, showed that the change from mutant to wild type virus "was abrupt and occurred rapidly. Typically most resistance was lost over a period of one to two weeks." Patients passed through that window of change at varying lengths of time, from two to 15 weeks after stopping therapy.

He hypothesized that residual drug effect influenced time to the shift. Some drugs, particularly the NNRTI class that includes Sustiva, stay in the body longer when you stop taking them. Deeks also found that protease resistant virus reverted to wild type, while resistance to nucleoside analogs diminished but did not disappear.

Many assume that mutant virus, like wild type, is "archived" in tissue or cell reservoirs. "What we don't know yet is how long it will be before that reservoir of resistant virus breaks out and again becomes the dominant virus," said Dr. Daniel Kuritzkes, of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

But researchers looking for archived mutant virus in the usual places have not been able to find it in all patients. It may be that the detectives and their tools are defective. The more intriguing possibility is that mutants, already less fit to replicate than their wild type siblings, also may be deficient when it comes to archiving.

CTL rebound

The well-known paradox is that "it takes viral antigen to keep the immune system charged up. Once virus replication is controlled too well, the number of these cells diminishes," explained Kuritzkes. Stop therapy and the viral load explodes, chewing up T-cells in the process.

But in at least some individuals, renewed exposure to high levels of the virus also re-stimulates cytotoxic T-lymphocyte (CTL) killer cells. The immune system seems to not only return to the killing efficiency of before, it actually seems to learn from the experience. Each time it goes through the stop/start cycle of

page 23 ▶

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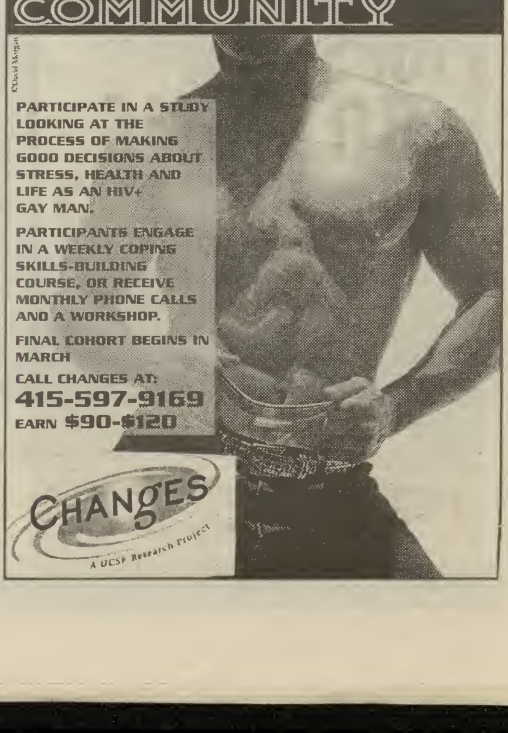
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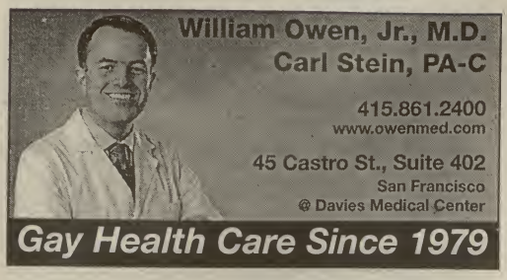
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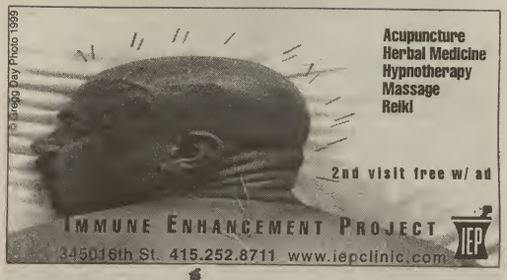
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HAART sick hoax

by Tim Horn and Linda Grinberg, ACT UP/Golden Gate Writers Pool

Under the flimsy guise of serious medical reportage, a recent article boldly proclaimed, "In 1996 a scientist claimed he'd found a way to defeat AIDS. In the wave of euphoria that followed, a batch of new drugs flooded the market. Four years later, those drugs are wreaking unimaginable horror on the patients who dared to hope. What went wrong?"

So begins Celia Farber's yarn of half-truths in the March 2000 issue of *Gear*, a glossy NC-17 magazine for the post-feminist straight guy (think fraternity house bathroom material). Beneath cherry-picked, out-of-context quotes from some eminent HIV/AIDS researchers, lies a dark, sinister agenda. Farber seduces the unsuspecting neophyte with a few provocative remarks suggesting HAART is one big, fat, greed-driven lie that has needlessly left people living with this phantom virus crippled, mangled, deformed, and headed straight to the morgue.

"In reality, three years into the protease inhibitor craze, most people on cocktail therapy can barely function," fabricates Farber, formerly *Spin* magazine's HIV dissident mouthpiece for the flat-earth society of Duesberg disciples. And spin she does.

Farber's fiction was recently regurgitated in the form of a commentary posted to the ABC-News.com Web site by Nicholas Regush, an ABC producer who is peddling a new book. "Now science must confront this ongoing travesty," Regush rants, "a guinea-pig experiment not unlike those medical forays conducted by the Nazis." Let's back up a bit, shall we?

Numerous people living with HIV have been harmed by the drugs they take. In this sense, HIV – and the treatments used to control it – is no different than any other life-threatening disease known to man. Drugs can be toxic. But until proven otherwise, the tradeoff remains the lesser of two evils – for AIDS has claimed the lives of over 16 million people, leaving an estimated 33.6 million ravaged in its wake.

HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy) is not the Holy Grail. But, there's no denying that its virologic and immunologic benefits have been nothing short of miraculous for many. And then there are the side effects. Both short- and long-term toxicities abound. For those starting therapy, often there is diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting. Over the longer term, peripheral neuropathy frequently develops, as do liver and kidney toxicities and a long list of potential metabolic abnormalities.



Coping with severe side effects can be manageable at best, or reason for treatment cessation at worst. Whether the damage is irreversible is not yet known. Farber and Regush contend the drugs are poisoning us to death, repudiating the fact that the death rate has fallen precipitously with their widespread use. No one can deny the fact that those near death are now alive to complain – loudly. As Jeff Getty of ACT UP/Golden Gate bluntly states, "I'd rather be alive with a paunch than dead and rotting in my grave."

We cannot overlook the ghastly side effects some people face. Patients and volunteers in clinical trials willingly offered up the last remnants of their precious health and lives – the ultimate sacrifice – in pursuit of a therapy to save themselves and others. Activists valiantly fought for early access to these drugs. The commitment of these brave souls has prolonged the lives of many and continues to bear fruit, albeit sometimes bitter.

Keeping the context

Missives from the misguided duo aside, accounts from within our ranks further muddy the waters. Reports of the incidence of lipodystrophy, a syndrome of metabolic complications believed to be a consequence – either directly or indirectly – of HAART are multiplying. Estimates range from 2 percent to over 80 percent of the HIV-infected population. But, as Martin Delaney of Project Inform points out, higher prevalence rates can be misleading. "A careful look at cohort data shows that lipodystrophy is being defined using any one of innumerable physical manifestations or lab test irregularities," he explains. "In some studies anyone with elevated cholesterol or middle-age paunch is included in the tally. Studies using more demanding criteria show vastly lower rates."

A handful of case reports confirming heart attacks among people receiving HAART cannot be compared to the devastation of the 1980s and early 1990s as we faced the loss of our loved ones to untreatable AIDS-related infections and our own mortality.

Learning lessons

An overzealous, insatiable press fed our hunger and desperation at the 1996 International AIDS conference in Vancouver, anointing Dr. David Ho our savior and *Time*'s Man of the Year. His eradication theory, taken as gospel, was faithfully preached with missionary fervor. Hopes were dashed with the discovery of hidden, impenetrable sanctuaries of virus, virus capable of persisting for 60-plus years. Denouncing Ho a heretic, the media is ever intent on destroying the icon it created. Bashing HAART has become chic. In reality, the only debate going on about HAART is not whether to use it but when.

The United States Public Health Service and International AIDS Society-USA continue to advocate the "hit early" and "hit hard" approach. Yet the tide is turning. Dr. Keith Henry, medical director of the HIV clinic at Regions Hospital in Minnesota, argues in the most recent issue of *Annals of Internal Medicine* that, with the twilight of the eradication hypothesis, the utility of early therapy is becoming increasingly suspect. Henry and others claim that it's not too late to remand this important question to the realm of clinical research. In light of what is now known about side effects and lacking proof of the utility of early therapy, the need for improved treatment strategies and novel drugs is evident.

Farber and Regush shy away from the real debate and instead fabricate an Armageddon. By maligning HAART, they mask the true agenda they are promulgating – that HIV is benign, not the cause of AIDS, and a pharmaceutical scam. To build a case, the drugs must be portrayed as the deadly enemy. Their continued benefit undermines their mission and there would be no story.

Farber is closely allied with a group of AIDS-naysayers, ACT UP/San Francisco that run a "medical marijuana dispensary" and actively try to convince people to go off drugs. They litter and spray paint the city with slogans claiming, "AIDS is over," "HIV is a lie," and "Oppose AIDS funding." They recently disrupted a Congressional hearing, proclaiming AIDS funding a fraud and a scam, and have gotten cozy with the Christian right and the Family Research Council.

Farber asserts, "Protease inhibitors were approved on small, short trials, in which results were virtually engineered." Failing to mention longer-term, larger studies conducted around the world that affirmed the profound value of the new therapies, Farber concludes, "The rush to get the new AIDS drugs on the market caused a near-total disintegration of the FDA drug approval process." Tell that to those whose lives were spared.

Yes, fat redistribution is horrific and these miraculous drugs may leave us wanting. But, let us neither deny our history, nor forget our past. Let us not forget the daily death toll in the obituaries or the weekly memorial services of years past. Let us not forget the macabre horror of witnessing the wasted, KS-riddled shells of almost an entire generation slowly going blind or mad, struck down in their prime. Let us not forget their names or their faces. Let us not forget the grim reality that AIDS is more lethal than any drug and that death is never pretty. ▼



VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

Information for Patients About VIRACEPT® (VI-ra-cept)
Generic Name: nelfinavir (nel-FIN-na-veer) mesylate

For the Treatment of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection

Please read this information carefully before taking VIRACEPT. Also, please read this leaflet each time you renew the prescription, just in case anything has changed. This is a summary and not a replacement for a careful discussion with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss VIRACEPT when you start taking this medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when taking VIRACEPT and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

WHAT IS VIRACEPT AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

VIRACEPT is used in the treatment of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Infection with HIV leads to the destruction of CD4 T cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of CD4 cells have been destroyed, the infected person develops acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

VIRACEPT works by blocking HIV protease (a protein-cutting enzyme), which is required for HIV to multiply. VIRACEPT has been shown to significantly reduce the amount of HIV in the blood. You should be aware, however, that the effect of VIRACEPT on HIV in the blood has not been correlated with long-term health benefits. Patients who took VIRACEPT also had significant increases in their CD4 cell count.

VIRACEPT is usually taken together with other antiretroviral drugs such as Retrovir® (zidovudine, AZT), Epivir® (lamivudine, 3TC), or Zerit® (stavudine, d4T). Taking VIRACEPT in combination with other antiretroviral drugs reduces the amount of HIV in the body (viral load) and raises CD4 counts.

VIRACEPT may be taken by adults, adolescents, and children 2 years of age or older. Studies in infants younger than 2 years of age are now taking place.

DOES VIRACEPT CURE HIV OR AIDS?

VIRACEPT is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of VIRACEPT are not known at this time. People taking VIRACEPT may still develop opportunistic infections or other conditions associated with HIV infection. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections, and Kaposi's sarcoma.

It is not known whether VIRACEPT will help you live longer or reduce the number of infections or other illnesses that may occur.

There is no proof that VIRACEPT can reduce the risk of transmitting HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT TAKE VIRACEPT?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether VIRACEPT is appropriate for you. In making your decision, the following should be considered:

Allergies: If you have had a serious allergic reaction to VIRACEPT, you must not take VIRACEPT. You should also inform your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist of any known allergies to substances such as other medicines, foods, preservatives, or dyes.

If you are pregnant: The effects of VIRACEPT on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known. If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

If you are breast-feeding: You should discuss with your doctor the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that it can be transmitted through breast-feeding. **Women should not breast-feed if they have HIV.**

Children: VIRACEPT is available for the treatment of children 2 through 13 years of age with HIV. There is a powder form of VIRACEPT that can be mixed with milk, baby formula, or foods like pudding. Instructions on how to take VIRACEPT powder can be found in a later section that discusses how VIRACEPT Oral Powder should be prepared.

If you have liver disease: VIRACEPT has not been studied in people with liver disease. If you have liver disease, you should tell your doctor before taking VIRACEPT.

Other medical problems: Certain medical problems may affect the use of VIRACEPT. Some people taking protease inhibitors have developed new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Some people with hemophilia have had increased bleeding. It is not known whether the protease inhibitors caused these problems. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have hemophilia types A and B, diabetes mellitus, or an increase in thirst and/or frequent urination.

CAN VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS?

VIRACEPT may interact with other drugs, including those you take without a prescription. You must discuss with your doctor any drugs that you are taking or are planning to take before you take VIRACEPT.

Drugs you should <u>not</u> take with VIRACEPT:
- Seldane® (terfenadine, for allergies)
- Hismanal® (astemizole, for allergies)
- Propulsid® (cisapride, for heartburn)
- Cordarone® (amiodarone, for irregular heartbeat)
- Quinidine (for irregular heartbeat), also known as Quinaglute®, Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others
- Ergot derivatives (Cafergot® and others, for migraine headache)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Versed® (midazolam)

Taking the above drugs with VIRACEPT may cause serious and/or life-threatening adverse events.
- Rifampin (for tuberculosis), also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®

This drug reduces blood levels of VIRACEPT.

Dose reduction required if you take VIRACEPT with:

Mycobutin® (rifabutin, for MAC); you will need to take a lower dose of Mycobutin.

A change of therapy should be considered if you are taking VIRACEPT with:
- Phenobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These agents may reduce the amount of VIRACEPT in your blood and make it less effective.
- Oral contraceptives ("the pill")

If you are taking the pill to prevent pregnancy, you should use a different type of contraception since VIRACEPT may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE TAKEN WITH OTHER ANTI-HIV DRUGS?

Taking VIRACEPT together with other anti-HIV drugs increases their ability to fight the virus. It also reduces the opportunity for resistant viruses to grow. Based on your history of taking other anti-HIV medicine, your doctor will direct you on how to take VIRACEPT and other anti-HIV medicines. These drugs should be taken in a certain order or at specific times. This will depend on how many times a day each medicine should be taken. It will also depend on whether it should be taken with or without food.

Nucleoside analogues: No drug interaction problems were seen when VIRACEPT was given with:
- Retrovir (zidovudine, AZT)
- Epivir (lamivudine, 3TC)
- Zerit (stavudine, d4T)
- Videx® (didanosine, ddI)

If you are taking both Videx (ddI) and VIRACEPT: Videx should be taken without food, on an empty stomach. Therefore, you should take VIRACEPT with food one hour after or more than two hours before you take Videx.

Nonnucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs):

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
- Viramune® (nevirapine)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be reduced. Studies are now taking place to learn about the safety of combining VIRACEPT with Viramune.
- Other NNRTIs

VIRACEPT has not been studied with other NNRTIs.

Other protease inhibitors:

When VIRACEPT is taken together with:
- Crixivan® (indinavir)

The amount of both drugs in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Norvir™ (ritonavir)

The amount of VIRACEPT in your blood may be increased. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.
- Invirase® (saquinavir)

The amount of saquinavir in your blood may be increased. If used in combination with saquinavir hard gelatin capsules at 600 mg three times daily, no dose adjustments are needed. Currently, there are no safety and efficacy data available from the use of this combination.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VIRACEPT?

Like all medicines, VIRACEPT can cause side effects. Most of the side effects experienced with VIRACEPT have been mild to moderate. Diarrhea is the most common side effect in people taking VIRACEPT, and most adult patients had at least mild diarrhea at some point during treatment. In clinical studies, about 20% of patients receiving VIRACEPT 750 mg (three tablets) three times daily had four or more loose stools a day. In most cases, diarrhea can be controlled using antidiarrheal medicines, such as Imodium® A-D (loperamide) and others, which are available without a prescription.

Other side effects that occurred in 2% or more of patients receiving VIRACEPT include abdominal pain, asthenia, nausea, flatulence, and rash.

There were other side effects noted in clinical studies that occurred in less than 2% of patients receiving VIRACEPT. However, these side effects may have been due to other drugs that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Except for diarrhea, there were not many differences in side effects in patients who took VIRACEPT along with other drugs compared with those who took only the other drugs. For a complete list of side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE VIRACEPT?

VIRACEPT is available only with your doctor's prescription. The light blue VIRACEPT Tablets should be taken three times a day. VIRACEPT should always be taken with a meal or a light snack. You do **not** have to take VIRACEPT exactly every 8 hours. Instead, you can take it at normal times when you are eating.

Take VIRACEPT exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase or decrease any dose or the number of doses per day. Also, take this medicine for the exact period of time that your doctor has instructed. **Do not stop taking VIRACEPT without first consulting with your doctor, even if you are feeling better.**

Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give VIRACEPT to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

The dosing of VIRACEPT may be different for you than for other patients. **Follow the directions from your doctor, exactly as written on the label.** The amount of VIRACEPT in the blood should remain somewhat consistent over time. Missing doses will cause the concentration of VIRACEPT to decrease; therefore, **you should not miss any doses.** However, if you miss a dose, you should take the dose as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose and future doses as originally scheduled.

Dosing in adults (including children 14 years of age and older)

The recommended adult dose of VIRACEPT is 750 mg (three tablets) taken three times a day. Each dose should be taken with a meal or light snack.

Dosing in children 2 through 13 years of age

The VIRACEPT dose in children depends on their weight. The recommended dose is 20 to 30 mg/kg (or 9 to 14 mg/pound) per dose, taken three times daily with a meal or light snack. This can be administered either in tablet form or, in children unable to take tablets, as VIRACEPT Oral Powder.

Dose instructions will be provided by the child's doctor. The dose will be given three times daily using the measuring scoop provided, a measuring teaspoon, or one or more tablets depending on the weight and age of the child. The amount of oral powder or tablets to be given to a child is described in the chart below.

Pediatric Dose to Be Administered Three Times Daily

Body Weight Kg	Lb	Number of Level Scoops*	Number of Level Teaspoons†	Number of Tablets
7 to < 8.5	15.5 to <18.5	4	1	-
8.5 to <10.5	18.5 to <23	5	1¼	-
10.5 to <12	23 to <26.5	6	1½	-
12 to <14	26.5 to <31	7	1¾	-
14 to <16	31 to <35	8	2	-
16 to <18	35 to <39.5	9	2¼	-
18 to <23	39.5 to <50.5	10	2½	2
≥23	≥50.5	15	3¾	3

In measuring oral powder, the scoop or teaspoon should be level.

* 1 level scoop contains 50 mg of VIRACEPT. Use only the scoop provided with your VIRACEPT bottle.

† 1 level teaspoon contains 200 mg of VIRACEPT. Note: **A measuring teaspoon used for dispensing medication** should be used for measuring VIRACEPT Oral Powder. Ask your pharmacist to make sure you have a medication dispensing teaspoon.

How should VIRACEPT Oral Powder be prepared?

The oral powder may be mixed with a small amount of water, milk, formula, soy formula, soy milk, dietary supplements, or dairy foods such as pudding or ice cream. Once mixed, the entire amount must be taken to obtain the full dose.

Do **not** mix the powder with any acidic food or juice, such as orange or grapefruit juice, apple juice, or apple sauce, because this may create a bitter taste.

Once the powder is mixed, it may be stored at room temperature or refrigerated for up to 6 hours. Do **not** heat the mixed dose once it has been prepared.

Do **not** add water to bottles of oral powder.

VIRACEPT powder is supplied with a scoop for measuring. For help in determining the exact dose of powder for your child, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

VIRACEPT Oral Powder contains aspartame, a low-calorie sweetener, and therefore should not be taken by children with phenylketonuria (PKU).

HOW SHOULD VIRACEPT BE STORED?

Keep VIRACEPT and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Keep bottle closed and store at room temperature (between 59°F and 86°F) away from sources of moisture such as a sink or other damp place. Heat and moisture may reduce the effectiveness of VIRACEPT.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

Discuss all questions about your health with your doctor. If you have questions about VIRACEPT or any other medication you are taking, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You can also call 1.888.VIRACEPT (1.888.847.2237) toll free.

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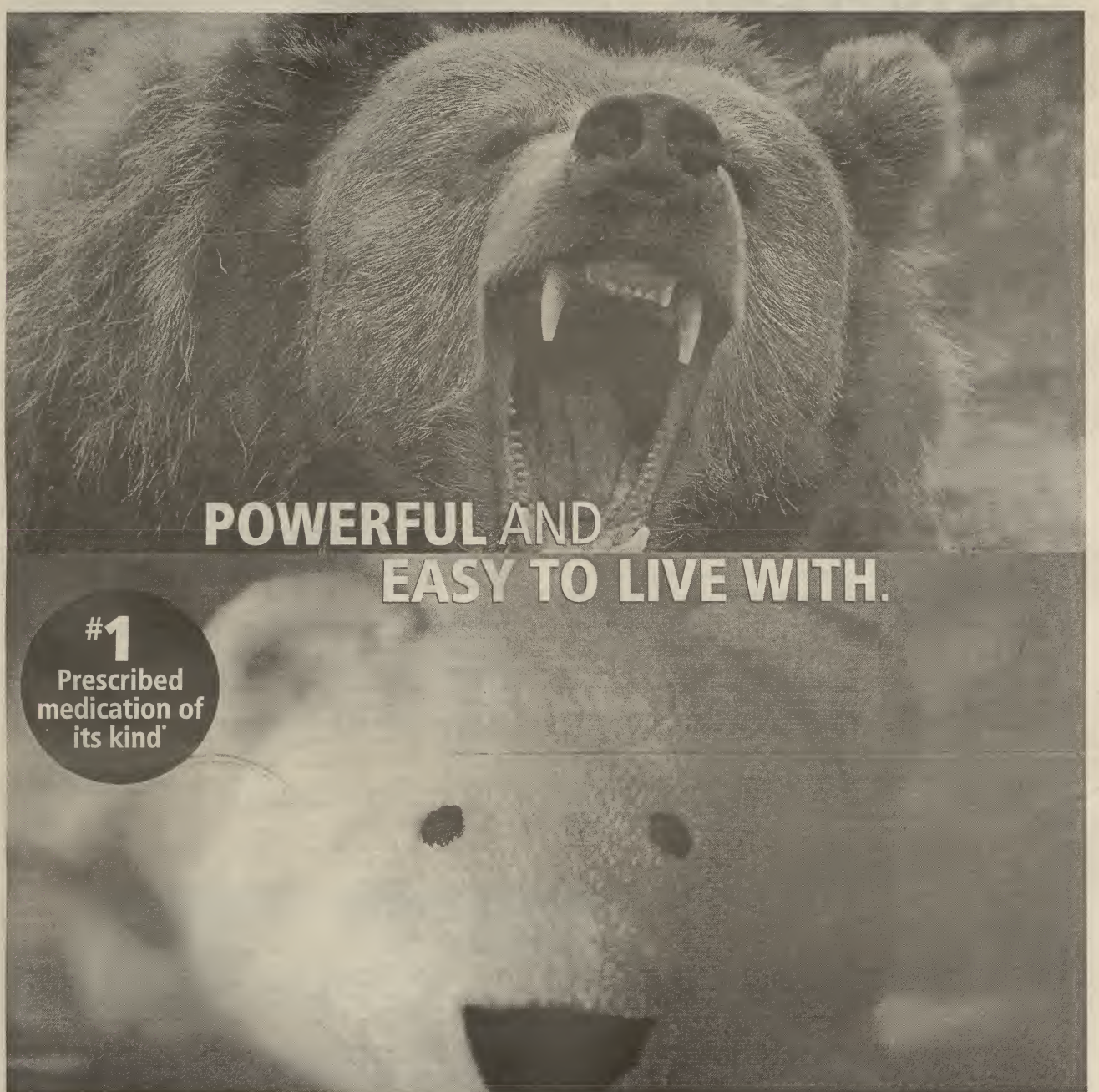
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VIRACEPT®
nelfinavir mesylate
tablets and oral powder

Agouron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
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Gays for 22

◀ page 1

sistence on raising the issue of the suicide of his boyfriend, who reportedly killed himself in San Jose a few years ago at the age of 16.

"I definitely didn't like that. They talked me into it," he said. "I went along with it because they said, 'It shows you've been discriminated against. People will sympathize with you more.'"

At press time, the *B.A.R.* had been unable to confirm the circumstances of Beddingfield's late boyfriend's suicide.

Although "Gays for 22's" announcement was little more than a blip in the news, Beddingfield had been put forward as a lead spokesman by the Yes on 22 campaign, and last Friday debated No on Knight/Proposition 22 campaign manager Mike Marshall on a Los Angeles television station.

"I'm heartened that Tom now recognizes that this initiative is designed to hurt gays and lesbians and their families," Marshall commented on Beddingfield's recent reversal, "and not to protect some bogus states' rights issue."

Meanwhile, the so-called Protection of Marriage Committee, the official campaign working to pass the Knight initiative, has refused to divulge the names of any other openly gay members of "Gays for 22," and did not return repeated calls seeking comment on Beddingfield's announcement.

Beddingfield said that he did speak once on the telephone with state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), the initiative's author, who has not played a public role in the campaign. The senator has disowned his gay son David, who has come out against his father's initiative.

Beddingfield has rejected claims made by the Protection of Marriage Committee that the "simple" 14-word text of their initiative, "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in the state of California," was written specifically so that it could not be used in legal attacks on equal rights for gays and lesbians.

"Its ridiculous to think that," Beddingfield said. "Senator Knight wrote this intentionally with the goal that it would be used to undermine gay rights in other areas." ▼

Endorsements

◀ page 6

Proposition 30 Vote NO
Insurance Claims Practices – Civil Remedies

The state has an over-abundance of attorneys, they are all looking to make a living. We have no problem with that, however, not at our expense. This proposition would raise insurance rates by increasing the number of frivolous lawsuits in accident cases. It would reward lawbreaking, drunk driving, and uninsured drivers. Vote NO on 30.

Proposition 31 Vote NO
Insurance Claims Practices – Civil Remedy Amendments

Both of these propositions are, as we said before, put on the ballot by attorney groups. Some of the groups opposing these propositions are: Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Seniors Coalition, Voter Revolt, Organization of Police and Sheriffs, California Taxpayers, and scores of other taxpayer, consumer, business, public safety leaders, and seniors. The sponsors of this proposition are aptly named Consumers and their Attorneys. Vote NO on 31.

We strongly urge our readers to cast ballots for the March 7 primary, especially to vote No on Propositions 21 and 22. We talk about voter apathy, then we allow some 19 or so initiatives on the ballot. The city, surprisingly, has only six this time. But in addition to the candidates, San Franciscans have 25 items to vote on next month. All too often the initiative process is overused and abused – Propositions 21 and 22 are two clear examples of that abuse. Proposition 24 was removed from the ballot by the state Supreme Court; wanna bet you see it revised next time? Term limits in the state have often resulted in a lack of qualified candidates running for office or good candidates running against each other. Either way, that translates into Sacramento being flooded with rookie lawmakers every couple of years. In Southern California, for example, out lesbian Sheila Kuehl is facing Wally Knox, a friend of the LGBT community, for a state Senate seat, meaning we will lose one of them. Don't forget to vote March 7. ▼

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Michael Kantor
December 30, 1999



Michael Kantor died in his sleep on December 30, 1999 at the age of 42. Michael was a regional sales manager for an electronics firm. He was born in Pennsylvania and moved to the Bay Area 21 years ago and lived in the Sacramento area the last several years. Michael was known and beloved by his many friends and colleagues. He was always full of life and with his bright blue eyes and infectious laugh always lit up any room he entered. His parents John and Connie, his brothers Steve, Joe, Tom and his sisters Teri, Marie and Patty survive Michael. Mike loved to work, play and party hard and will always be remembered for being the life of any party. We will always love you Michael. — David, Gerard, Robert, Chris and Tony.

No on Knight

◀ page 4

al, suggesting that state Senator Pete Knight's entire motivation for putting the measure on the ballot in the first place is because "he may not like it that his son is gay."

"But he shouldn't make us vote on his private problem," the narrator says, adding that "most people don't support gay marriage but we do support keeping government out of people's private lives."

"Our ads are intended to strip away the veneer of simplicity of Proposition 22 and inform voters that there is far more to Proposition 22 than meets the eye," Marshall said. "Proposition 22 will hurt gay and lesbian people. It will hurt children. It will hurt families. ▼

Gay-straight

◀ page 16

of sexual orientation, applies to the state of California. But the court that allowed the gay-straight alliance to meet emphasized that the ruling was not just about freedom of expression, but served a public interest.

"As any concerned parent would understand, this case may involve the protection of life itself," said Judge David O. Carter, citing the high incidence of anti-gay hate crimes and the disproportionate rate of suicide among gay and lesbian youth.

Up until the court ruling earlier this month, the group at El Modena had been meeting on a patch of grass across the street from their school. ▼



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PHOTO BY JUNIPER STRATFORD

Pret-a-poor taste

Black jocks in drag history month, part 2

by Jim Provenzano

You're born naked and the rest is drag," saith RuPaul.

But of course, drag is nothing new in the world of athletics, butch or femme.

While Tim Robbins's notorious lace panty pitching dream sequence in *Bull Durham* may have shocked a few, and excited others, more educated folk understand that the most expected place to find subversively femme drag statements is in the arena of stereotypically macho behavior. Yin must have its Yang, be it couture or ready-to-wear.

But in some regions where the values of the catwalk have no power, shock and retribution have their day.

School district officials refused to reveal what penalties were placed against two Pardeeville, Wisconsin, high school basketball coaches who, a year ago this week, required their players to wear women's underwear for underperforming on practice drills.

In wire reports last year, district officials would say only that "appropriate action" was taken against the coaches following a two-day investigation. Forced repeated viewings of episodes of *Veronica's Closet*, perhaps?

Even after getting caught, coaches Jack Vande Zande and Mark Weinstock remained on staff despite the complaints from junior varsity parents, who characterized the "panty drill" as sexual harassment. Why they weren't asked to help out in home ec was not revealed.

Weinstock said he got the idea for the punishment from a coach at a Catholic high school.

We all know what foundations of logic those places are. One Catholic priest in our area was recently arrested after repeatedly denying, then admitting, having abused his students by forcing them to wrestle in a sexual manner. The lurid depictions of these scenes are reported in another paper.

But back to the Drag Court. Coach Weinstock said the panty drill was meant to be "a fun way to practice rebounding" and was not meant to be humiliating or demeaning.

Perhaps some boys thought so, while others found it horrifying, and still a few others have developed a new fetish that'll no doubt have its own support group, newsletter, convention, and thumbnail-filled Web site before year's end.

One pic headlining sports-n-drag-related sites is that of last year's *ESPN* magazine cover with New Orleans Saints new running back Ricky Williams posing in a white tulle wedding gown with new coach Mike Ditka. This was yet another straight attempt at humor, symbolizing the "uneasy marriage" between the hotshot jock and the grumbling coach.

Williams's behavior off-field has led to some controversy. His much-ballyhooed trade, and being passed over by the Browns, has left his teammates respecting his performance, but not his demeanor. His post-game interviews are given with his helmet on, according to sources.

No doubt posing in drag furthered the locker room banter from helmets to hemlines. Those wacky straights! So faux-campy.

Forget about the implicit classist and racist elements of Williams portrayed as a traditional woman, i.e. in a breeding context; property, aka, bottom, or that which has yet to be plundered. Don't go there, girlfriend. A little deconstruction goes a long way.

Williams is the picture of traditional drag, nowhere near the creative depths of Dennis Rodman (see last week's column). In fact, his demeanor is downright staid, worthy of *Bride* magazine.

But not staid enough for Saints coach Mike Ditka. Poor Mikey.

Hoping for a more tasteful approach to the comedic – albeit flatly so – photo shoot, the Dit was convinced the costumery would more closely resemble "American Gothic's" famous pitchfork couple, "the old Amish guy and his wife," as the Dit called it in interviews, a parody done dozens of times with other couples (including gay bodybuilders Bob Paris and Rod Jackson). But much to Dit's horror, they "tried to trick it up." As if referencing a cliché piece of art would make the shoot more tasteful. And what does Mike really know about tricking?

Ditka claimed to have been abused. "I would say that *ESPN* magazine took advantage of Ricky and I in that situation."

Oh, did they? Just cornered you, eh? Forced you down with a Minolta?

It must be difficult to be able to slam into two or three men at a time for a living, or supervise herds of men to do so, then not be able to say no to a camera and a fey stylist.

As proof that a drag photo op can be a drag that haunts you, just this week police arrested and detained the Heisman Trophy-winner in Austin after he refused to sign a traffic ticket.

Texas Department of Public Safety flak Tom Vinger said troopers pulled Williams over on Monday night. The vehicle he drives, a 1999 HumVee, is also called a Hummer.

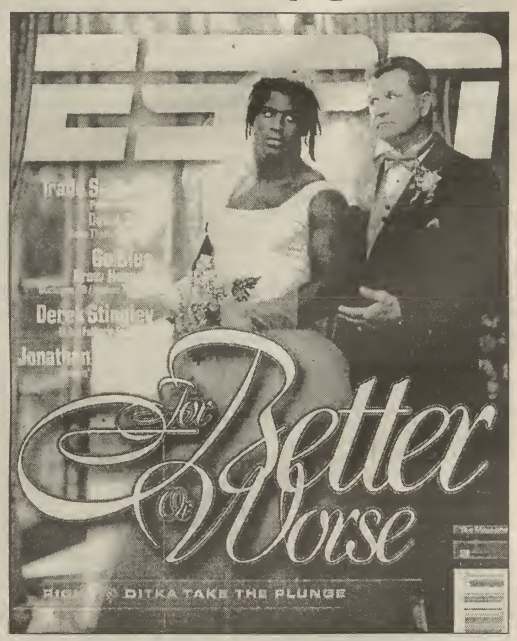
Williams quit the Saints and returned to the University of Texas for classes this semester. He called his mom on his cell phone while being detained. Since he refused to sign the ticket, the cop took him in.

Williams's mom told the press she claimed the cops trailed her son just looking for a reason to nab him. Just goes to show, being famous and a sloppy driver are a bad combo.

Teenage boys being forced to wear women's panties, priests humping their students, and pro football coaches and players forced to don femme garments. A multi-million-dollar Super Bowl-winning coach can't get no respect.

I see a pattern, and it isn't a chalk-traced Simplicity frock. ▼

For more columns, visit http://sportscomplex.org



Honeymoon jitters between Williams and Ditka.

Bowls and balls



Rick Gerharter

Gay and lesbian softballers were bowled over at Japantown Bowl Sunday, February 20 as part of the annual sign-up party and benefit for the Gay Softball League. Over 26 teams were formed or reorganized for the new season that begins Sunday, March 5 at Moscone Field in San Francisco. Volunteer scorekeepers are needed, as well as fans. For more info, visit www.sfgsl.org, e-mail sfgsl@aol.com, or call (415) 436-0707.

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McCain

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just three days later, taking his home state of Arizona by 60 percent. In Michigan he cornered 50 percent of the vote to Bush's 43 percent. As of February 23, McCain had 94 convention delegates to Bush's 58; 1,033 delegates are needed for the GOP nomination.

McCain made his appeal to all voters regardless of party registration; Bush charged that was "a hostile takeover" of the Republican Party. Exit polling showed that two-thirds of Bush's vote came from registered Republicans, while McCain drew a similar share from independents and Democrats who were allowed to vote in the open primary. The general election in November is open to all, and McCain's success in appealing outside the Republican Party base would augur well for him in the fall, should he succeed in grabbing the party nomination.

The Democratic struggle between Gore and Bradley has been at least as nasty, if not quite so public. They squared off in a series of appearances before key Democratic constituencies, most notably African Americans and gays and lesbians. Gore has secured the endorsement of about two-thirds of the gay Democratic clubs that have chosen.

During Monday's debate, both candidates took their shots as they took questions from the audience, the Internet, and a panel of reporters.

Gore is charging that Bradley's health care proposals would simultaneously spend too much money and spend less on people with AIDS. Bradley and his supporters have denied that.

Bradley has proposed that Medicaid be expanded so that people with HIV can gain access to health services before they get sick enough to be defined as having AIDS, something AIDS advocates have been trying to get for years. Gore supported the idea in April 1997, but the Clinton administration later backtracked when budget analysts said it would not be "revenue neutral" but would cost money.

If the latest polls hold up, Gore should have no problem officially wrapping up the Democratic nomination on March 7 with victories in vote rich California and New York. Bush or McCain could accomplish the same with a sweep in those two states, but that outcome is less clear and the struggle may continue on much longer. ▼

STI

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therapy it gets a better handle on controlling HIV replication.

At the "late breaker" closing session of the conference, Dr. F. Garcia, from the Hospital Clinica in Barcelona, Spain, showed data on 10 patients who have been through three cycles of STI. For some of them, the time to viral rebound extended with each cycle. A few showed a spike, then a spontaneous decline in viral load after stopping therapy. Garcia suggested that both of these responses indicated stimulation of a more powerful immune response.

The Aaron Diamond Institute in Manhattan used a "therapeutic vaccine" prior to stopping therapy in an attempt to stimulating CTL response. It found that viral rebound was delayed in two of the four patients. The best CTL response produced the longest delay in viral rebound. It is unclear, however, whether part or all of this response should be credited to the vaccine or to the fact of stopping therapy as described above.

The hope is that by cycling off and on drugs, with or without the assistance of a therapeutic vaccine, one can boost the immune system's contribution to viral control, and take longer drug holidays.

Kiyoshi's story

Philadelphia activist Kiyoshi Kuromiya has stopped therapy several times because of anemia and toxicity associated with his regimens. His viral load rebounded from undetectable to 4,000 one time and 14,000 another time before he restarted therapy. That's enough to scare many PWAs, but it is just a bump in the road for this veteran who peaked at 1.2 million copies of HIV in 1994. Each time when he has resumed therapy his viral load returned to an undetectable level, and his CD4 count has risen.

"At the end of my most recent structured treatment interruption [my CD4 count] was higher than it has been in 10 years," he said. "It suggests, in my case anyway, that viral rebounds are diminished and I achieve viral control very rapidly after ending my treatment interruption."

Kuromiya acknowledged, "You can't draw conclusions from the small size of the studies" presented at the conference but "a lot of us don't have the luxury of waiting." He believes that if the interruption is well monitored, "there haven't been any dangers that we don't already know about."

"I think that the evidence is good enough that people can feel they won't do themselves irreparable harm" with a monitored strategic interruption, says James Learned, an educator with the Community Research Initiative on AIDS.

New York activist Gary Rose suggests that STI may offer an opportunity to stabilize or even begin to reverse side effects such as lipodystrophy or mitochondrial toxicity. "If nothing else, your liver might be given a little time to breath. That can't be a bad thing."

Currently, data is available on only two or three interruption cycles, though the trials are continuing. The number of responders seems to increase with each round of interruption. "Could this possibly mean that the number will continue to grow?" asked Rose. "Getting to 100 percent is highly unlikely, but 50 percent might be possible."

"I think there is some promise there," said Kuromiya. "I hope that in three years everybody will not be doing drugs every day but every few weeks or every few months." ▼

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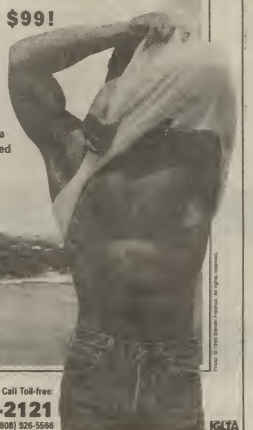
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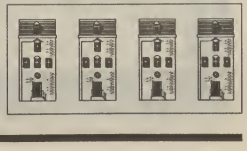
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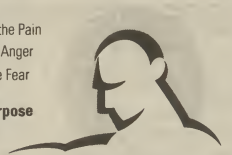
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.238156
The following person(s) are doing business as, Supergenius. 3338 23rd Street #B San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Olivier Wolfson and Timothy C. Coleman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/2/2000.
FEB. 10, 17, 24, MAR. 2, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238068
The following person(s) are doing business as, Kaye Buckley. 2057 15th Street Apt. #D, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed S. Heidi Anderson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 01/28/2000.
FEB. 10, 17, 24, MAR. 2, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238277
The following person(s) are doing business as, Quicktaxi.com. 965 Mission Street #115, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by limited liability company signed No Boundaries Enterprise LLC (CA). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/17/2000. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/07/2000.
FEB. 10, 17, 24, MAR. 2, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238209
The following person(s) are doing business as, Viet Huong Sandwiches & Fast Food. 655 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Huynh Cao B. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/03/2000.
FEB. 10, 17, 24, MAR. 2, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238390
The following person(s) are doing business as, Adgile Interactive Media/ Adgile Media. 344 Utah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Jeff Ames. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/10/2000.
FEB. 17, 24, MAR. 2, 9, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238322
The following person(s) are doing business as, Floor Pros. 128 Mangels Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jason Mai. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/08/2000.
FEB. 17, 24, MAR. 2, 9, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238253
The following person(s) are doing business as, Pizzetta. 211 23rd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Tamar Belle Peltz and Alexandria Ramsey. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/04/2000.
FEB. 17, 24, MAR. 2, 9, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238525
The following person(s) are doing business as, Remain.com, Remain.com Technical Support. 582 Market Street, Suite 211, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Stewart McKenzie. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/2000. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/15/2000.
FEB. 24, MAR. 2, 9, 16, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238492
The following person(s) are doing business as, Free As A Bird. 3620 Wawona Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jeffrey M. Fletcher. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/14/2000.
FEB. 24, MAR. 2, 9, 16, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.238549
The following person(s) are doing business as, Yuly Vilderman, D.D.S., Metro Dental Group, Inc. 2233 Post Street #102 San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Yuly Vilderman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 2/05/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/16/2000.
FEB. 24, MAR. 2, 9, 16, 2000

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF 309921
In the Matter of the Application of Maria Del Rosario Gohmann For Change of Name. The application of Maria Del Rosario Gohmann for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Maria Del Rosario Gohmann has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Sharon Krizia Bragayrac. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of April, 2000, at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 24, MAR. 2, 9,16, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: 0224650
The following person have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Coochi Grl. Located at: 266 Richland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 8/3/98. This business was conducted by: A general partnership signed Traci Ewing.
FEB. 24, MAR. 2, 9, 16, 2000

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: 0215068-00
The following person have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as:Remain.com, Remain.com Technical Support. Located at: 21 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94111. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 6/23/97. This business was conducted by: An individual signed Stewart McKenzie.
FEB. 24, MAR. 2, 9, 16, 2000

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE: NUMBER: 273211
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Margaret Edwards. A petition for probate has been filed by: Olive F. Bauer, in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. 400 McAllister Street Rm 204, SF, Ca. 94102-4514.The petition for probate requests that: Olive F. Bauer be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. The independent administrationauthority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held on: 3/13/00 time: 9:30am at: Superior Court Of California, County of San Francisco. 400 McAllister Street, Room #204 San Francisco, Ca. 94102.If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objection with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided In Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the bearing date notlced above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the clerk. Attorney or petitioner: Joan M. Walsh. 777 Alvarado Rd. Ste. 515 La Mesa, Ca. 91941.
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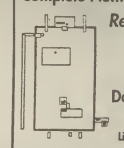
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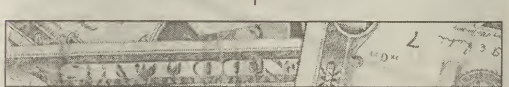
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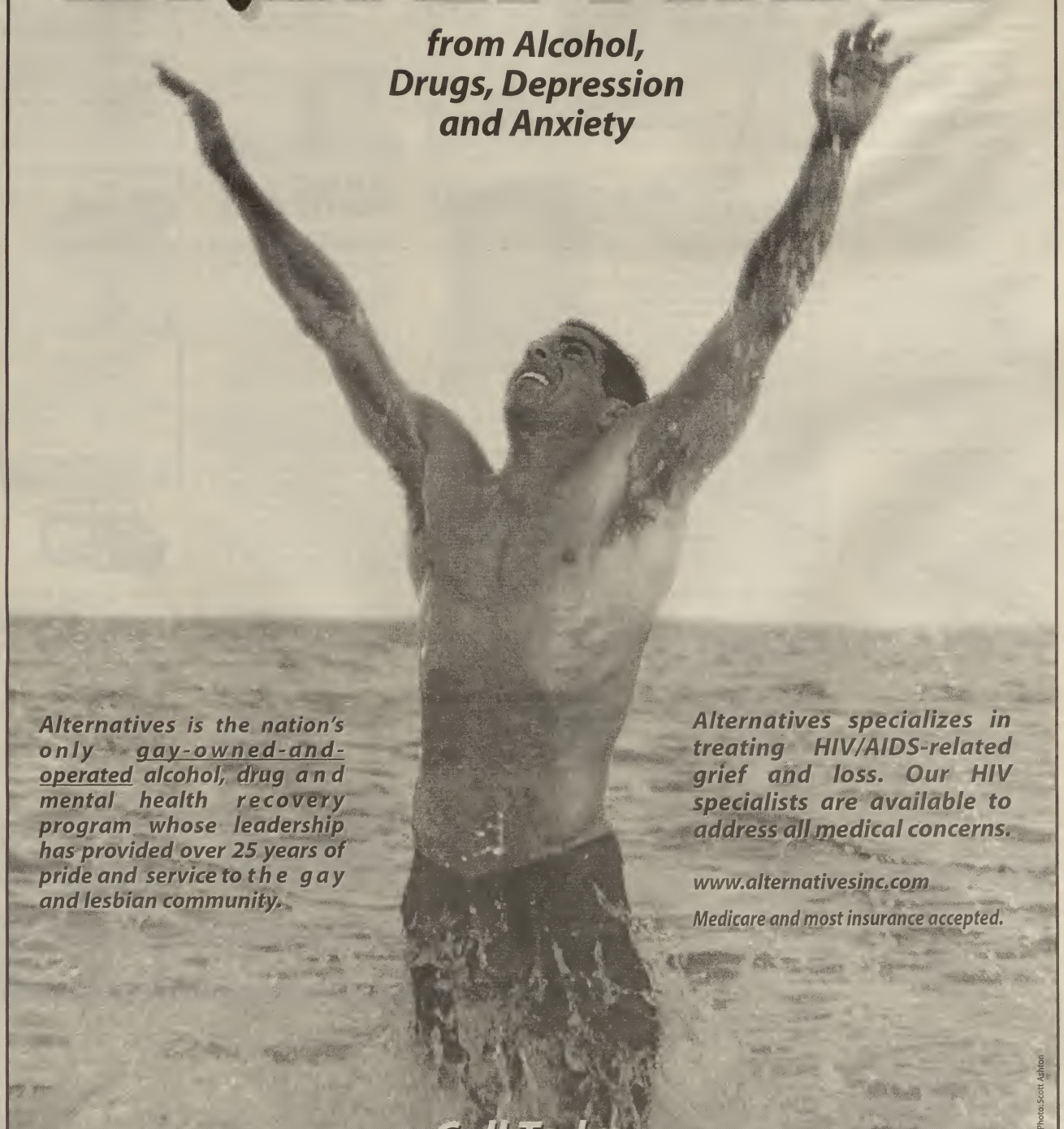
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 30 • No. 8 • 24 February 2000



Ladder to the Moon, 1958, oil on canvas, by Georgia O'Keeffe

Georgia on our mind

O'Keeffe at the Legion of Honor

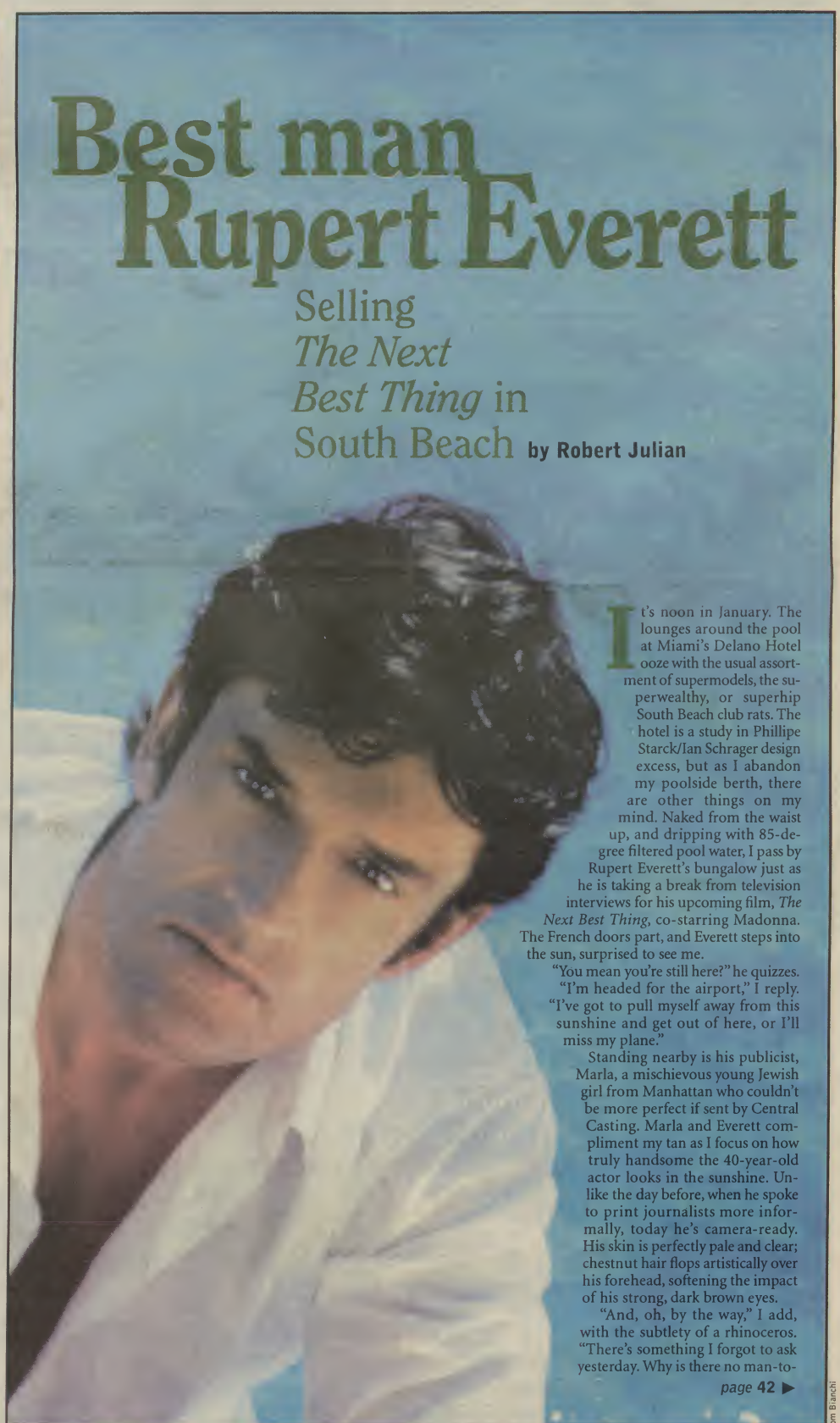
by Will Shank

The New York Times, in a recent Sunday magazine story by Deborah Solomon called "Art Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," compared such irreverent contemporary female artists as Sam Taylor-Wood and Lisa Yuskavage to Georgia O'Keeffe. "The Bad Girls stand in sharp contrast to such long-ago legends as Georgia O'Keeffe, art's leading good girl. When she felt like painting lusty pictures, she painted flowers, red poppies with swelling petals and dark fissures. Famously self-reliant, she ended up in the New Mexico desert with her collection of skulls and bones for company. O'Keeffe was granted saintly status by the women's movement, which itself often felt like a religious order."

Indeed, in an age of confrontational art, there is great comfort to be found in the rich colors of an O'Keeffe oil or the simple curves of an O'Keeffe charcoal drawing. The artist herself vehemently denied the sexual content of her paintings. ("Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar," she must have said.) A no-nonsense kind of gal, what O'Keeffe did say was, "I'll paint what I see — what the flower is to me, but I'll paint it big, and they will be surprised into taking time to look at it."

Somewhat against her will, the plain-spoken Midwesterner, who was once a schoolteacher in West Texas, became all things to all people. Like Frida Kahlo, O'Keeffe was (and is) embraced as an icon from afar, or posthumously, by feminists, lesbians, environmentalists, and lovers of things Latino. Her longevity (she was born in 1887 and died in 1986) added to her myth. Long before her work embodied the Bloom-

page 45 ▶



Best man Rupert Everett

Selling *The Next Best Thing* in South Beach

by Robert Julian

It's noon in January. The lounges around the pool at Miami's Delano Hotel ooze with the usual assortment of supermodels, the superwealthy, or superhip South Beach club rats. The hotel is a study in Phillipe Starck/Ian Schrager design excess, but as I abandon my poolside berth, there are other things on my mind. Naked from the waist up, and dripping with 85-degree filtered pool water, I pass by Rupert Everett's bungalow just as he is taking a break from television interviews for his upcoming film, *The Next Best Thing*, co-starring Madonna. The French doors part, and Everett steps into the sun, surprised to see me.

"You mean you're still here?" he quizzes.

"I'm headed for the airport," I reply. "I've got to pull myself away from this sunshine and get out of here, or I'll miss my plane."

Standing nearby is his publicist, Marla, a mischievous young Jewish girl from Manhattan who couldn't be more perfect if sent by Central Casting. Marla and Everett compliment my tan as I focus on how truly handsome the 40-year-old actor looks in the sunshine. Unlike the day before, when he spoke to print journalists more informally, today he's camera-ready. His skin is perfectly pale and clear; chestnut hair flops artistically over his forehead, softening the impact of his strong, dark brown eyes.

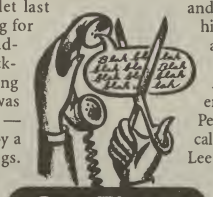
"And, oh, by the way," I add, with the subtlety of a rhinoceros. "There's something I forgot to ask yesterday. Why is there no man-to-

page 42 ▶

Tom Bianchi

by Roberto Friedman and Kathy Faculty

Poor old-school queen film reviewer **Rex Reed**. Even though he stuffed both pockets of his **Ralph Lauren** suede jacket with CDs and tried to walk out the door of a NYC Tower Records outlet last week without paying for some of them (including a **Peggy Lee** package she was just dying for!), Miss Reed was shocked — shocked! — to be manhandled by a coupla security thugs. As if she were not a boner fide TV celebrity!



In his indignant column for the *NY Observer*, Rex admits he was "having a senior moment" at Tower. "Maybe in the confusion at the cash register I forgot to present the three CDs in my left pocket when I turned in the three CDs in my right pocket." Uh-yup.

Thanks to his attempted caper with "Peggy, **Mel** [**Torme**], and **Carmen** [**McRae**]," Reed found himself humiliatingly handcuffed, hauled off to the precinct house, and unceremoniously dumped in a "white-tiled box with a broken light in the ceiling, walls and floor smeared with the blood, excrement and cigarette butts of a hundred previous guests. ...Since only [schlockmeister] **Stephen King** could describe the filth, I refused to walk or sit on the floor in white socks." A wise fashion choice.

Fortunately, when the precinct lieutenant got back from dinner, he recognized The Name, and RR's lawyer snuck him out a back door to avoid the harsh glare of the press camera. And there's a happy ending, duckies. Peggy Lee's press agent called Reed to say Miss Lee was so thrilled he wanted one of her CDs enough to go through hell, she was sending him a huge box set. Who says crime does not pay?

Message to Michael

Tell us we're not seeing things. In the bus shelter ads for the new **Michael Douglas** flick *Wonder Boys*, does not Mr. Michael look exactly like a sweater queen (separated at birth from a **certain SF gay theater queen**)? In the movie, based on the novel by Bay Area author **Michael Chabon**, Douglas plays **Grady Tripp**, an English professor whose life is spinning wildly out of control.


Frank Connor

Michael Douglas as Grady Tripp, Michael Cavadias as Miss Sloviak, and Robert Downey, Jr. as Terry Crabtree in *Wonder Boys*

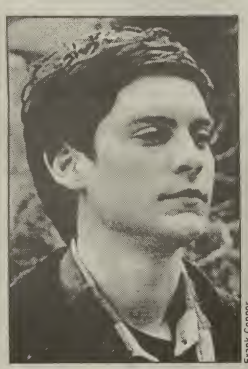
Out There's spy at the press screening says two scenes are particularly memorable. First, brilliant if troubled star **Robert Downey, Jr.**, who plays gay as **Terry Crabtree**, Douglas's book editor, shows up with a 6'2" transvestite he picked up on the plane, strapping **Michael Cavadias** as **Miss Sloviak**. When he takes her along to a faculty party, she is treated with respect by the other characters, and not made the butt of endless stupid jokes. That's a nice change from the usual Hollywood fare, no?

Second but no less sensational, cutiepie actor **Tobey Maguire**, who plays the prof's puppy protégé, **James Leer**, somehow winds up between the sheets with Downey, and there's a nice scene with them both bare-chested in bed, presumably having just sported. Yum. Our screening mole says you now know the two best things about the movie, and you're on your own as to whether to sit through feature length. *Wonder Boys* opens on Friday, Feb. 25 in Bay Area theaters. Catch it in a bus shelter near you.

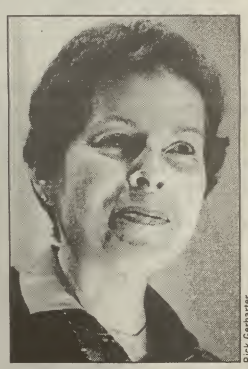
Odd girl in

Literarily lascivious lesbians, over 150 of 'em, turned up last week to hear loquacious legendary author **Ann Bannon** read from her work at the Eureka Valley **Harvey Milk** Memorial Branch Library. The acclaimed author of such popular pulp paperbacks as *Beebo Brinker, Odd Girl Out,* and *I Am a Lesbian* spoke eloquently of her isolated experience as a Southern California housewife in the late 1950s and early '60s, when she was pseudonymously submitting her manuscripts. Diary of a rad housewife!

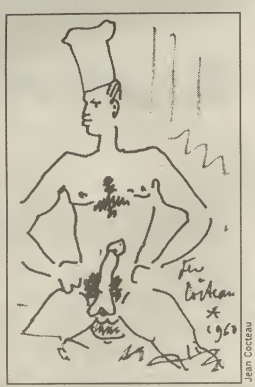
Acknowledging the wide range of age in the audience, Bannon was reportedly fascinating, funny and often profound. She was thrilled to receive a surprise Board of Supes proclamation from glamoursupe **Mark Leno**, still tan. Tourmeister **Trevor Hailey**, award-winning novelist **Katherine Forrest**, new SF Library Branch Manager **Kare Sundheim**, along with co-sponsoring Hormel Center's **Joan Annsfire**, **Robert Giannasca** and **Jim Van Buskirk**, were among those who joined Bannon for dinner afterwards at 2223 Market Street. That's a little bit of lesbian literary history being made right in our own backyard.


Frank Connor

Tobey Maguire in *Wonder Boys*


Rick Gerharter

Ann Bannon in 1990


Jean Cocteau

Cooking up erotic drawings.

Jean genie

Opium-addicted *enfant terrible* and creative genius **Jean Cocteau** (1889-1963) is better known as a poet (**Picasso**'s poet laureate), filmmaker (*The Blood of the Poet*) journal-keeper (*Opium*) and novelist (*Children of the Game*), as well as being one helluva party guy, but now we can also say with absolute certainty that he also made the most marvelous erotic pictures. Forty years of his output is collected in *Erotic Drawings, Jean Cocteau,* newly out from Taschen. As editor **Annie Guédras** writes in her introduction, "In his sketches and finished drawings on explicitly gay themes, he was not afraid to exaggerate the manhood of his models."

The book includes drawings Cocteau did for *Le Livre Blanc* (*The White Paper*), which he began by writing: "As far back as I can remember, and even when I was too young for my mind to have any power over my senses, I can find traces of my love for boys. I always preferred the strong sex, which I think may legitimately be called the fair sex."

There is a full cast of male beauties in these drawings, including sailors (in rather provocative poses, done for the first edition of **Jean Genet**'s novel, *Querelle de Brest,* when future **Querelle**-portrayer **Brad Davis** was still a gleam in his Pa's eye), wrestlers, Greek mythological figures, Harlequins, bicyclists, chefs, weightlifters, exhibitionists, fauns and fishermen. Nearly all of them sport raging erections, and they are in the throes of all sorts of delightful pursuits: jacking off, cornholing and cocksucking are some of the favorites. Highly recommended. ▼

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'The Comedy of Errors' squared

Director Danny Scheie's Shakespeare 2000

by Richard Dodds

Seinfeld, Frasier, and *Friends* are not situation comedies. *The Comedy of Errors* is a situation comedy.

Shakespeare's early play is all about the machinations of its plot, and the characters are delineated only as far as required to serve the machinery. The tale of mistaken identities was surely a laff-riot in the 16th century, but the novelty has faded somewhat in the past 400 years.

Director Danny Scheie has taken care of that with his whiz-bang approach that knows how to make a contemporary audience laugh without trashing Shakespeare.

If an opening speech prattles on in its exposition, Scheie makes a joke of it while still communicating the necessary information. When the play's leading lady must deliver a rat-a-tat-tat monologue, here it gets a little tweak that pulls us into the actress' plight.

And in terms of the situation of the comedy, Scheie even ups the ante on Shakespeare. While the playwright had two sets of twins running about, unbeknownst to each other or the other characters, at the Aurora Theatre a single actor plays each set even when the twins must appear in the same scenes together. It's like comedy squared.

And in its own way, it helps the audience find what nuance there is between these look-alike characters, because the actors need to make clear who they are at any given moment. Be it said that in the Aurora production, they do so delightfully.

In the case of the Antipholus twins, separated as infants and unaware of each other's existence, there is still another layer to the comedy with the cross-gender casting of Susannah Schulman as

page **41** ▶



David Allen

Adam Gavzer and Joan Mankin in Aurora's *The Comedy of Errors*

Funny papers

'Ennio' at Theatre on Square

by Richard Dodds

Ennio Marchetto gives new meaning to the notion of construction paper. Who could have imagined that two simple pieces of paper could transform this balding Venetian into Liza Minnelli? Or even that an elaborately realized — but still paper-thin — Godzilla costume could, with a fold here and an unfold there, become Judy Garland sitting on a rainbow?

It was hard to imagine what *Ennio,* now at Theatre on the Square, was all about before seeing the 70-minute production. Now the challenge is to describe what it's all about. It's reasonably certain there is no other show on the planet quite like it.

In the most simple of descriptions, Marchetto does lip-sync

page **45** ▶



Ennio Marchetto



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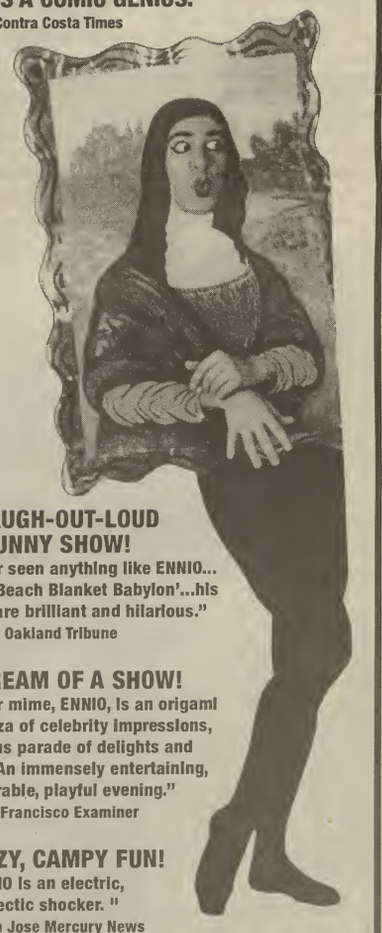
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Robert O'Hara's latest insurrection

Playwright suspends the 14th Amendment in his latest play

by Richard Dodds

Playwright Robert O'Hara was horrified as he watched *Sally Hemings: An American Scandal* on TV. "It almost makes my play obsolete," said the author of a new play that also looks at the likely relationship between Thomas Jefferson and a young female slave. "I wrote a satire, and they ended up with inadvertent satire. It was laughable."

O'Hara's new play, *-14: An American Maul*, shuttles between the distant past and the near future to help make sense of contemporary racial divides. He also used a time-traveling device in *Insurrection: Holding History*, in which a contemporary gay African-American finds himself in the company of slaves on a Southern plantation.

"There are no identifiable gay characters in the new play," he said. "It goes way beyond that. How I look at the world is strange and funny and scary, and it comes from being an African-American homosexual who is turning 30."

Insurrection provided an adventurous edge to ACT's 1997-98 mainstage season. ACT is also producing the premiere of *-14* (pronounced "negative 14"), but it is a project populated with graduate students from ACT's conservatory. O'Hara is relieved for the chance to develop it away from the pressures of measuring up as a Geary Theatre attraction.



Playwright Robert O'Hara

"Doing a new play at the Geary is like putting a baby on stage in the middle of San Francisco and telling it to walk," O'Hara said. ACT is renting one of Magic Theatre's spaces for the run of O'Hara's play, which is playing March 3-16 in repertory with Mac Wellman's *Girl Gone*.

Carey Perloff, an O'Hara champion and artistic director of ACT, made it clear to the playwright that *-14* is not an appropriate candidate for mainstage consideration. O'Hara doesn't dispute this exclusion.

"This is my most dangerous play," he said. "It takes certainly widely held truths, turns them upside down, and kicks them in the ass."

The "14" of the title refers to the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which turned slaves into citizens. In O'Hara's scenario, an economic crisis requires a temporary repeal of the amendment. "And then all shit breaks loose," he said.

"The play looks at two families whose relationship changes immediately with the new law," O'Hara said. "They are allowed to revert back to the way things were in the past. But one way the black family can get around the new law is if they can prove they have presidential white blood." Hence, the Thomas Jefferson-Sally Hemings connection.

As for the subtitle, *An American Maul*, it's a play on words that suggests both "mall" and "mauling." "I don't believe in the American melting pot," O'Hara said. "It's the 'mauling' pot. It takes history, chews on it, and spits it back out."

O'Hara has said he likes to "choke" his audiences, not to figuratively slay them, but to keep them from swallowing too easily what he has to say. Humor is the key to starting the process, he said, "because when you laugh you open yourself up."

O'Hara admits to a fascination at the close connection between the comic and the horrific, going back to his childhood in Cincinnati, where relatives told him that Santa Claus doesn't visit faggots. "I feel like I've landed on Mars when I go back there," he said, "and my family doesn't help. It's why I'm fucked up, but in a wonderful way."

Thanks to *Insurrection*, he was invited by film director Martin Scorcese to write a screenplay based on Richard Pryor's life. It was also a combination of the comic and the horrific, but it eventually got shelved, O'Hara said, "because my script was too dangerous."

But production is set to begin soon on a psychological thriller that O'Hara wrote and will direct, marking his big-screen debut. It will have both a black and a gay focus, he said, "but I don't want to give too much away."

At the ripe old age of 30, O'Hara is beginning to mellow. "I don't feel I have to take on the world anymore," he said. "I don't feel I have to stamp out every 'ism.' And I don't really judge people. As a black male homosexual, I've been judged enough."

For ticket information on *-14: An American Maul*, call 749-2ACT.

Backstage

'Lingerie' show

42nd Street Moon sets up shop in its new home at the Eureka Theatre with the curiously titled *Jazz Up Your Lingerie!* The title of the troupe's annual fundraising revue is taken from an obscure song sung by Claudette Colbert and Miriam Hopkins in the movie *The Smiling Lieutenant*, and is just one of the score of tunes in this tribute to movie musicals.

Other highlights include a song written for Judy Garland and dropped when she was cut from *The Barkleys of Broadway*, a "lost" song from *Gigi*, and several saucy songs from the "pre-Code" movies of the early '30s. Performers include such Moon stalwarts as Caroline Altman, Bill Fahrner, Lesley Hamilton, Meg Mackay, Greg MacKellan, and Stephanie Rhoads.

Lingerie will run March 2-5 at the Eureka, where Moon will present four shows in its 2000 season of "lost" Broadway musicals beginning in July. Call 441-3687 for more info.

Teaching tolerance

Five hormonally driven teens think they have the world pegged until a member of the group is seen coming out of a gay bar. *The Other Side of the Closet* takes this scenario, and tries to provide young viewers with the tools to deal with their conflicting reactions to gay issues.

The New Conservatory Theatre Center is inaugurating its *Tolerance Project* with Edward Roy's theater-in-education play. It will tour schools after a showcase run at NCTC for educators, parents, politicians, social service agencies, and young people.

Morning performances for school and youth groups and evening performances for general audiences will run March 2-12 at NCTC. For info, call 861-4914.

Kinsey report

It may be your last chance to see the Kinsey Sicks without a five-hour flight. At least, they hope, for quite a while. Before its open-ended off-Broadway run begins in the late spring, the group that bills itself as America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet will offer a preview of its Manhattan musicale.

New York or Bust, featuring both old favorites and new material, returns the group to the New Conservatory Theatre Center, where its five previous productions have been performed. The preview show runs three nights only, March 8-11. Call 861-8972 for tickets.

Still rolling along

It was the musical that spelled the end of the collaboration between Hal Prince and Stephen Sondheim, a collaboration that had produced the likes of *Company, Follies, Sweeney Todd*, and *A Little Night Music*.

But despite a brief and troubled run, *Merrily We Roll Along* has sustained an ardent following. That group includes Jay Manley, artistic director of the Foothill Music Theatre in Los Altos Hills, where *Merrily* opens on Feb. 25.

Adapted by Sondheim and George Furth (*Company*) from a 1934 Kaufman and Hart play, it tells its story of squandered dreams and lost friendships in reverse chronological order. Two of the songs from the widely appreciated Sondheim score — "Not a Day Goes By" and "A Good Thing Going" — have achieved an enduring life outside the musical.

Merrily will run through March 19. For more info, call (650) 948-4444. ▼



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The programme will include Sonata No 15 in C Major by Mozart, Impromptu in E-Flat Major, Op 90, No 2 by Schubert, Prelude in G minor, Op 23, No 5 by Rachmaninoff, Clair de Lune by Debussy, Rhapsody in G minor, Op 79 by Brahms, Preludes, Op 11 Nos 1, 5, 3, 8, & 14 by Scriabin and Ballade No 1 in G minor, Op 23 by Chopin

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False charges

'The Jaundiced Eye'

by Gary Morris

America's criminal justice system has been under increasing attack in the past few years, and it's hardly surprising. One niche of the system that's mostly resisted efforts at reform is the false charge of child molestation. The notorious McMartin Preschool case in LA, with its wild tales of old women engaging in psycho sex acts, caught the attention of prosecutors throughout the country. They realized that regardless of the guilt or innocence of the parties involved, these cases hit a particularly raw nerve in the body politic and could transform an anonymous DA into a media superstar practically overnight.

Of course, an ambitious prosecutor is only doing the dirty work of a society that's giddily reversed constitutional rights by being willing to jail a hundred innocent men in order to nab one guilty one. Hysteria around sexual issues, homophobia, and bottom-feeding "child abuse experts" are some of the social pathologies that can put an innocent person behind bars. Nonny de la Pena's grimly effective documentary *The Jaundiced Eye* looks in-depth at a particularly egregious example of the near-ruination of a family when a father and son are falsely convicted of molesting the son's five-year-old boy.

This powerful film shows decisively that this case, which began in 1990, was as much about homophobia as about molestation. Stephen Matthews was an average Joe from the heartland — in this case, Detroit suburb Monroe, Michigan — who married young and had a kid. He and his wife liked to go to gay bars when they were 17, but Stephen found something more than diversion there. After they had a little boy, and much to his wife's disgust, Stephen realized he was gay and soon left her. When her son was five he implied that he was being molested not just by Stephen, but by his grandparents. The two men were hauled into court, tried, and jailed with sentences of 18-35 years, based entirely on the child's testimony, since there was no evidence that any of his stories were true. The grandmother was released by the judge on the supposition that her husband and son forced her to participate.

The Jaundiced Eye makes clear that there were other elements at play in this grim scenario. A major one was Stephen's ex-wife's boyfriend's hatred for his predecessor and the whole Matthews family. Unseen, but heard in voiceover, he spews homophobic hate, railing against the family that he "accuses" of being "filled with homosexuals." The ex-wife is also an ominous, ghostly figure in the film: she appears only in shadow, reinforcing in her interview the idea that because Stephen was gay, he must also be a pedophile. It's certainly telling that neither of these characters, nor the son (now 15), nor some of the authorities who put these innocent men in prison, agreed to speak candidly, in the light. One can only wonder what they have to hide.

The boy's story was too bizarre to be credible. He claimed he was tortured, tied to trees outside his grandparents' house, raped "maybe 40 times." But examining doctors found no evidence of what should have been major trauma. He also said his tormentors repeatedly "put a machete" into his rectum, an image that the prosecution's "experts" attempt to validate through verbal gymnastics. Scenes of psychologists asking the boy leading questions expose the flaws in this process. The fact that both of the accused men passed polygraph tests apparently held little weight. The system's disregard of the physical evidence and the polygraphs are sad proof of the film's theme that "the jaundiced eye" sees what it wants to see.

In jail, the boy's grandfather retreated into bodybuilding and the Bible, while Stephen — who was raped there — studied law and searched for holes in the prosecution of their case. Faced with a vengeful ex-wife and her boyfriend, a troubled (perhaps brainwashed) child, incompetent lawyers, and a system determined to have his head, Stephen ultimately had to rely on himself. This proved the best strategy in the end, and the film is finally as much about the bravery and tenacity of one gay man in the face of annihilating social forces as anything else. ▼

***The Jaundiced Eye* opens Friday at the Roxie.**

City of sweat and tears

'La Ciudad' at the Castro Theatre

by David Lamble

In *The City (La Ciudad)*, first-time feature filmmaker David Riker tells four deceptively simple stories.

In "Bricks," a group of Latin American day laborers gathers on a shabby Bronx street corner in New York. The men mill around without apparent purpose until a graffiti-covered white truck pulls up. The men suddenly spring to life, crowding around the rear of the truck as a bald man, who could find work on *The Sopranos*, rasps that ten of them can make $50 that day. Scrambling onto the truck, a father is forced to leave his small son behind. Another shoves a letter into his pocket, a letter from his wife pleading for money.

In "Home," a handsome young Mexican is lost until he stumbles upon a wedding and dances with a young woman from his tiny village. In "The Puppeteer," an older man lives with his young daughter in an old station wagon on the spare change they gather doing puppet shows. Finally, in "Seamstress," a young woman's nervous breakdown causes turmoil in a modern garment sweatshop.

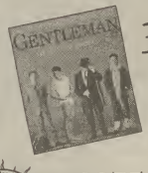
Riker has a photographer's eye for faces, a continent of faces that you could see any day in Lower Manhattan or on Mission Street — faces of the great Latin Diaspora. With *The City*, Riker is at-

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Stephanie Viruet and José Rabelo in the "Puppeteer" episode of *The City*

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Squeeze-box in the spotlight

Bandoneónista Dale Meyer and Strictly Tango

by Stephanie von Buchau

Tango, that sexy Argentine dance, is hot again. Once thought of as a retro social relic from the '20s and '30s, it experienced a surge in public consciousness with the fabulous *Tango Argentino* stage show that toured the country in the mid-'80s

But it wasn't until the Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992) was discovered by the classical music world in the '90s that tango became ubiquitous, not just among dancers but in the air, everywhere. A couple of weeks ago, the San Francisco Symphony played a tango by Piazzolla at its regular subscription concerts.

This year's San Francisco Opera Guild fundraiser is titled *Tango at the Palace*. Sponsored by the Consul General of Argentina, a cocktail reception, silent auction, formal dinner, and live auction, followed by ballroom dancing (not necessarily tango) takes place in the Palace Hotel's Garden Court on March 4. That same evening, the Bay Area Argentine Tango Association (BAATA), a lively group that sponsors *milongas* (dance parties) all over the Bay Area, holds its *Carnaval* gala. The thread that ties these two events together is the participation of Strictly Tango, a local six-piece dance band, led by bandoneónista Dale Meyer. Strictly Tango plays background music — mostly tango covers, but also a few of Meyer's own compositions in the style of Piazzolla — during the SFO Guild silent auction. Then the gang hops in a van to play for BAATA's *Carnaval*.

You can also catch Meyer's group on Monday Tango Nights at the Glas Kat in SoMa and, starting in March, the last Friday of the month at the Metronome Block Party. One of the reasons Strictly Tango is so popular, aside from their talent, is the fact that live music is not the norm at local *milongas*. It's so expensive that recordings by traditional tango bands are usually played. Meyer notes, however, that BAATA makes a point to support local musicians.



Dale Meyer and his band, Strictly Tango

As a bandoneón player who can actually read music, Meyer is so unusual that he was hired for the band at ACT's production of *Threepenny Opera*, when conductor Peter Maleitzke went back to Kurt Weill's original score and discovered that the part we'd always heard on the accordion was actually written for its squeeze-box cousin, the bandoneón.

Free reed

This "free reed" instrument was invented in the Ruhr Valley in the mid-19th century and migrated to Argentina, where it became the mainstay of the burgeoning turn-of-the-century tango movement. Many of the great tango orchestras of the '20s and '30s were fronted by virtuoso bandoneón players. Piazzolla's instrument was the bandoneón, and his haunting melodies are irresistible on that instrument.

Meyer suggests that, unless you were raised in the Argentine tango tradition, you just don't set out to become a bandoneón player. For one thing, it is a difficult instrument to master, and for another, "there is not exactly a large market for bandoneón music. I went from drums, where you could always find work, to Latin percussion to the vibes, and now to an instrument that few people have ever heard of, much less want to hire to play live gigs."

Yet Meyer's whole "backward progression" (his phrase) as a musician seems ordained. Born in Dayton, Ohio in 1948, he was studying educational psychology when he heard Jimi Hendrix. "That did it. I said, I want to do that. I had no musical background or training, and a wife and child at the time. I guess I was having a mid-life crisis at 21, so I chucked school and took up the drums. For a couple of years I played local gigs, and then I went on the road, playing sideman with pop-rock groups like the Vogues. I lived in Nashville for a while, taught myself Latin percussion like the congas, and then took up the vibes."

Predictably, his marriage broke up and Meyer moved to Arizona. "I'd lost my taste for drums, but I was still moved by music. When my kids grew up, I came to San Francisco and formed the band Alpha Dog. We had a tough time finding work, as we were too loud for jazz and had no vocalist for pop-rock. We kinda fell between the cracks. I'm of the generation that still thinks education is important, and I'd dropped out of college to become an itinerant musician, so I went back to school."

Good vibes

A short stint at City College was followed by a move to State. In 1995, Meyer got his B.A. in electronic music from State and

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Tango fever

San Francisco Opera Guild Auction Gala, *Tango at the Palace*, March 4. For tickets, call 565-3204.

Bay Area Argentine Tango Association *Carnaval*, at the Italian-American Social Club, 25 Russia St. at Mission. March 4, for tickets call (510) 525-1658.

Glas Kat in SoMa (520 4th St. @ Bryant), Monday Tango Nights. Call 495-6626, www.glaskat.com.

Metronome Block Party, 300 DeHaro St. @ 17th St. last Friday in March.

Daniel Binelli, bandoneónista, plays Piazzolla and Villa-Lobos with the Classical Philharmonic, March 3 at the Herbst Theatre.

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Tender, brutal moments

ODC Theater's 'Ice/Car/Cage'

by Aimée Ts'ao

In the same way that beauty is in the mind of the beholder, so is meaning. As I watched *Ice/Car/Cage*, performed by Jules Beckman, Jess Curtis and Keith Hennessy in the parking lot across from ODC Theater last Thursday night, my mind skipped in and out among a myriad of interpretations.

A 300-lb. slab of ice stands in the middle of the performance space. A projection creates the illusion that a man in frozen inside it. Downstage right, a man, crammed into a steel dog-cage on wheels, smokes a cigarette. Jess Curtis hammers on the pavement, climbs a ladder and pounds the wall. He turns on a boombox which, in stark contrast to the scene, plays Chopin piano music to accompany his duet with his own shadow. Jules Beckman, slouched behind the wheel of a dented old car, slowly rouses himself and checks out his surroundings. He meanders over to the cage and lets Keith Hennessy out. Together they manage to start the car and then turn it loose to slowly circle the "stage" with the driver's door hanging open and no driver.

Now the piece takes off. The three men run over the car, jumping onto the hood, racing across the roof and leaping off the trunk. They spring over the open door as the car passes by. They roll, bounce and do flips off the vehicle at breakneck speed, while the crowd literally cheers them on. (Certainly cheaper than Cirque de Soleil, and equally amazing) Then they grab onto the rear bumper and are dragged behind until their combined weight stops it. A push gets the heap moving again, and soon all three are lying like spoons on top of it. Next, two men partner each other in an adagio, balancing on the roof of the still-moving car.

Beckman places a ladder on the car's roof and climbs to the top, where he softly sings into a microphone while circling Curtis, caressing the ice block. He lies face down on it, and Hennessy lies on top of him. Hennessy pulls Curtis's pants down around his knees, puts him on his back with his legs up in the air, and spins him around on the ice, holding him by an ankle.

Back in the cage

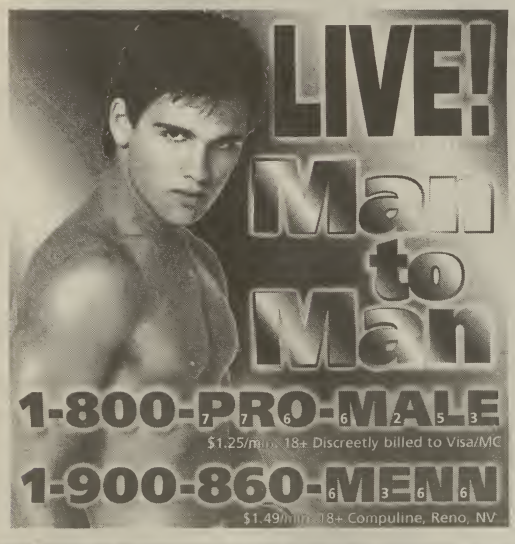
Beckman puts Hennessy back in the cage. Curtis is wildly carving the gleaming slab with an ice-pick. Beckman hitches the cage to the back of the car, jumps into the driver's seat and drives offstage, leaving Curtis violently destroying the ice with a hammer.

The nip in the air and a cold silvery moon aren't the only things to chill my heart. The extremes of tenderness and brutality that *Ice/Car/Cage* evokes are powerful enough, as is the contrast between indifference in our urban culture and attempts at love.

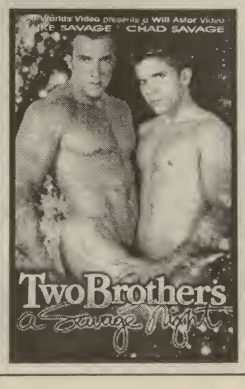
Who would have imagined that the raw, gritty cityscape of a parking lot could be the backdrop for such an eloquent and succinct vision? That a beat-up car, a piece of solid water and a cage could catalyze three gymnastic performance artists to create such a work of brilliance? The question is not about seeing the piece the "right way," the real challenge is to leave yourself open to seeing things in new ways, to relish the possibilities. Even a choreographer must give his work up to its viewers, and perhaps that interchange is the real beauty of art. ▼


Marion Gray

Jess Curtis in *Ice/Car/Cage*



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The toast of both coasts

MTT's tour kicks off

by Philip Campbell

With the flabbergasting final measures of John Adams's *Harmonielehre* probably still rocking the foundations at Davies Hall, Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony are already two days into their national tour. We will soon know how Carnegie Hall held up on opening night to the full-frontal assault, but if the last two weeks of concerts here are any indication, MTT is by now the toast of two coasts.

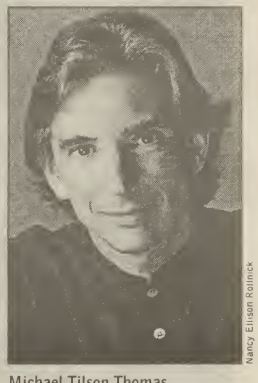
The tour programs include the entire subscription concert of last week, which starred pianist Arcadi Volodos in the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 (the one with all the big tunes); an offbeat but appropriate curtain-raiser, Aaron Copland's *Inscape;* and the aforementioned orchestral tour de force by our own John Adams.

The Bay Area can claim Adams as a local, for he has lived in Berkeley some 20 years and has been at the forefront of the region's musical avant-garde even longer. The fabulous *Harmonielehre* may well be his masterpiece, although he has enjoyed equal triumphs with his operas (*Nixon in China* and *The Death of Klinghoffer*); choral writing (*Harmonium*); and his "bad boy" pieces like *Grand Pianola Music* and *Hoodoo Zephyr* (serious and rock-tinged music for synthesizer). That Tilson Thomas has decided to take this overwhelming work on tour with him is not only an enthusiastic endorsement of a major American composer, but also an acknowledgment of the maestro's citizenship as a true Northern Californian.

The New York musical establishment may like San Francisco well enough, though there is usually a faint whiff of condescension about any praise of the city and its cultural institutions. The three impressive movements of *Harmonielehre*, which premiered so successfully at Davies in 1985 under Edo de Waart, should really knock the socks off any East Coaster who snobbishly thought we were quaintly provincial. The glistening, dramatic and intensely moving score is just as fresh now as it was on that exalted first night, and Tilson Thomas brings a personal vision that underlines the best qualities of a beautiful work that can shock, even while it soothes and seduces.

Of course, Arcadi Volodos will be sure to impress the critics, too; he certainly wowed them here, and for good reason. When the audience rose, last week, to salute his breathtaking rendition of Tchaikovsky's beloved warhorse, there was a feeling that his awe-

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Nancy Ellison Kolinck

Michael Tilson Thomas

First ladies memorial

'Eleanor: Her Secret Journey'

by Richard Dodds

It's easy to rush by the war memorabilia that decorates the lobby of the Marines Memorial building on the way to the second-floor theater, but it becomes an ironic coda following the performance of *Eleanor: Her Secret Journey.*

This one-woman show about Eleanor Roosevelt is at its passionate best as the widowed first lady recalls a supposedly triumphant tour she and her husband took through the World War I battlefields of Europe. As FDR, then the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, revels in the muddy killing fields, Eleanor comes to see war as an evil master that leaves no winners.

Jean Stapleton is also at her best in these passages, creating a palpable revulsion that is still lingering as we head back through a lobby where mementos of death and glory share wall space. Odd, then, that Rhoda Lerman's play doesn't let Eleanor express herself on World War II, a war her husband was eager to enter, although the play takes place within months of that war's horrific conclusion.

It seems an obvious omission, even in a play that puts its narrow focus on how Eleanor Roosevelt came to be a social force, rather than on how that force was eventually put to use. (As a child, I remember an adult remarking that the Negroes had been perfectly content until Eleanor Roosevelt "discovered" them.)

Stapleton, who has been performing the 90-minute piece intermittently for the past two years, is not as seamlessly in touch with the material as one would hope, with occasional stumbles throwing off her rhythms. Still, it's an impressive achievement for an actress who found mid-life fame as Edith Bunker, and whose own New York background may be closer to her TV character's than to the patrician Eleanor Roosevelt's.

True, there are times when hints of Edith (or perhaps Jean) slip into the grander guise she is creating for Eleanor. And one wonders what a more versatile actress might have made of the murkier sections of Lerman's script.

But then there are the passages about the European tour, and Stapleton finds a riveting connection with the character and the audience. That journey is a major component of the play, rivaled only by the increasingly loveless and distant relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt, beginning with his affair with Eleanor's social secretary, Lucy Mercer. "My excessively social secretary," she calls her. (No mention is made of her own intimate relationship with journalist Lorena Hickok.)

Ultimately, the play has nothing good to say about Franklin Roosevelt, undermining his moral authority and sensitivity at every chance. If the audience leaves the theater with a visceral reaction against war, its impressions of FDR may be even more fundamentally altered. For me, an old liberal, it was an unsettling byproduct of *Eleanor.* ▼



David Allen

Jean Stapleton in *Eleanor*

Eleanor: Her Secret Journey **will run at the Marines Memorial Theatre through March 5. Tickets are $30-$50. Call (877) 771-6900.**

MTT tour

◀ *previous page*

some power had been barely tapped. Volodos has a touch that can make the softest note resonate to the upper reaches of the hall, while he manages to articulate the most dazzling passagework in a brilliant and bold line. At the end of the long and thrilling evening, a young woman was heard to comment that Volodos and the Concerto were what she had come to hear, but *Harmonielehre* and the appearance of the composer, in person, were what she would always remember.

I have a feeling that her remark may have been prophetic regarding the tour. Arcadi Volodos will have his rightful position as the soloist in the limelight, but MTT and the orchestra will leave the deepest impression. Our fearless leader has also taken other adventurous and fairly obscure works on the road. Principal Keyboardist Robin Sutherland is repeating his notable solo work from early in the season, in Leonard Bernstein's Symphony No. 2, *The Age of Anxiety,* and the entire band is giving their zingy and streamlined Beethoven Fifth (the second hearing this season for regular subscribers) as a demonstration of their classical technique for first-timers.

11th hour

More interesting and problematic is the inclusion of the huge Symphony No. 11, Opus 103, *The Year 1905* by Dmitri Shostakovich. It seems high time for Tilson Thomas to be turning to the music of this troubling titan, but the choice of the Eleventh may not please the critics who have come to value his less bombastic symphonies for their marvelous sophistication and, arguably, deeper musical worth.

This great remembrance of the massacre of peaceful protesters before the Tsar's Winter Palace is, undoubtedly, an effective and oftentimes moving experience, but it never fully transcends the genre of program music.

Taken on its own terms, *The Year 1905* is a rip-roaring showpiece, and Shostakovich's hints at subtext (the Soviet invasion of Hungary) add a latter-day edge to the searing and mournful pages of the long score. Whatever stature it ultimately achieves in the composer's canon of 15 symphonies, the massive Eleventh stands as a textbook example of his orchestral mastery and ability to mix the vulgar with the sublime for an overpowering experience. MTT has compared Shostakovich to Mahler, and the parallels are intriguing. Both writers embraced the world in their biggest scores, and neither was ever too far removed from the music of the streets. Mahlerians might think Tilson Thomas is acting a bit defensively in his late championing of the notoriously misunderstood Russian composer, but I think he is onto something.

Whatever he has in mind, the selection of the Eleventh Symphony as part of the national tour is courageous and should win some converts. When the SFS performed the score at Davies earlier this month, the results were spectacular and proof positive the violins deserve an award for most improved players. They, like the rest of their colleagues, are ready to show the country what we are already convinced of: MTT has got them at an international standard for excellence. ▼

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OUT&ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Arcs in Four Directions, 1999, by Sol LeWitt

SFMOMA plays it safe

At long last, the previously lifeless atrium of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art reflects some of the artistic vibrancy heretofore confined to the upper galleries. With playschool boldness, two huge drawings cover the large walls flanking the staircase at the rear of the space, vivid in their colors and geometric design. The drawings, which enliven but do not overwhelm the space, are the visitors' first glimpse of the museum's new, hugely ambitious new exhibition, a 40-year retrospective of the works of Sol LeWitt, one of the progenitors of Conceptual art, and possibly the world's most prolific painter apart from Picasso.

The retrospective, which dominates the fourth and fifth floors, and trickles down to other floors as well, was the brainstorm of Gary Garrels, SFMOMA's curator of painting and sculpture, who spent years on the project, first convincing LeWitt to invest his time and energy in the exhibition, then coordinating the immense effort to pull it together. The show, underwritten by Charles Schwab & Co. and Banana Republic, is just the sort of uncontroversial work corporations love.

The public appeal is obvious. Primary colors. Geometric patterns. Catchy eye-candy. Cubes stacked one on top of another, forming jungle-gym-like structures. Free-standing sculptures that look like stalagmites out of some Bizarro comic-book world. Wavy lines in square boxes. Bold contrasts here, subtle schemes there. Grand scales. You're never sure whether the design schemes are better suited to kindergarten classes or some psychedelic romper room for adults, but there's a kind of child-like gee-whiz quality to it all. This was a safe exhibition, but nonetheless a welcome one.

Apart from sheer visual impact, the LeWitt exhibition offers an important idea about the creation of art. To understand how LeWitt conceives his works and carries them out is to appreciate Conceptualism, and explains how LeWitt became so influential since the 1960s, when he sought to escape from the tyranny and tiredness of Abstract Expressionism. For LeWitt, the actual work of art itself is not as important as the concept of the work, which could be carried out by him or anyone utilizing his instructions. Thus he need not have painted a work himself in order to declare it authentic — he merely certifies that the design is his, regardless of who executes it. Indeed these days he necessarily leaves the work to younger trained assistants or amateurs. It's kind of like paint by the numbers, but in fact most of the works require a high degree of skill to bring to fruition. Only the simplest of the designs could be carried out by ordinary mortals. ▼

***Sol LeWitt: A Retrospective*, highlighting more than 200 works from a 40-year span, continues at SFMOMA through May 21. For info, phone 357-4000 or surf www.sfmoma.org.**

Fri 25

Theater Artaud

Emmy award-winning actors Roscoe Lee Browne and Anthony Zerbe perform "Behind the Broken Words," an evening of powerful 20th century poetry performed as compelling human drama. They share with the audience their love of poetry, their delight in their art, and their celebration of long-time friendship. $20 ($10 for 25 and younger) 8pm. Also on 2/26. 450 Florida St. Tix: 621-7797.

Jon Sims Center

AIRspace artist in residence Tomi Paasonen and Kunst-Stoff perform *Moonfools* and *Les Sylphides*. The former defies description. The latter combines the aesthetic of romantic ballets with science fiction, and utilizes bungee-cords and aerial techniques. Kunst-Stoff has won critical acclaim for synthesizing theatrical dance, film, performance and visual art. $5-$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8:30pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). 554-0402.

Herbst Theatre

Opening night: "Postcards from Paris: Americans in the City of Light," an array of performances and lectures exploring the exchanges of high art and popular culture between France and the U.S., presented by Humanities West., continuing all day Sat. Tonight featuring opening remarks by Charles Fracchia of City College, and a performance by Raquel Bitton of popular 1920s and 1930s French cabaret songs. $30 ($25 for Sat.; $50 both Fri./Sat.). 8-10:15pm (10am-4pm Sat.). 401 Van Ness Ave. (near McAllister). Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400.

Sat 26

Metropolitan Community Church

National Queer Storytelling Festival, featuring Sandra Niman, Jou Jou, Mark Baum, Tara Brindell, James Boyd, Larry Lee and friends. An evening of music, spoken word and storytelling presented on a queer stage. Produced by Stories Alive Int'l. to encourage an inclusive definition of the word Queer: all people who are turning away from hatred, limitation and bondage and are consciously choosing to live in ways of responsibility, power, joy and love. $5-$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 150 Eureka St. 447-8966.

MACT Citihike

Men of All Colors Together go hiking to South Embarcadero. For the fit and fit-aspiring. Free. Depart 11am promptly, rain, fog or shine. Meet at Starbucks at Church & Market. Info: 675-0201.

ATA Gallery

For Black History Month, Other Cinema presents John Akomfrah's futuristic essay, *The Last Angel of History*. From Britain's Black Audio Collective, Akomfrah analyses hitherto unexplored relationships between Pan-African culture, science fiction, intergalactic travel, and rapidly progressing computer technology. With George Clinton, Sun Ra, DJ Spooky, Ishmael Reed, Greg Tate, and Kodwo Eshun. $5. 8:30pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Yerba Buena Center

The Women's Philharmonic, under the direction of Apo Hsu, premieres Cindy Cox's *De rerum natura* (On the Nature of Things). Also two pieces by Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, *Symphony No. 1* and *Peanuts©Gallery*, the latter a 14-minute, six-part character study for piano and orchestra dedicated to the late cartoonist Charles Schulz. Plus Teresa Procaccini's *Un Cavallino Avventuroso* (an adventuresome little horse). $20-$36. Pre-concert talk with Apo Hsu 7pm. Concert at 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Info/tix: 392-4400.

Asian Art Museum

In conjunction with the exhibition "Alienation and Assimilation: Contemporary Images and Installations from the Republic of Korea," *P'ansori* singer Chan E. Park performs Korea's nearest equivalent to opera. Conventionally accompanied by a drummer, the *p'ansori* singer complements vocal theatricality with simple gestures of a fan and handkerchief. This musical art form requires long training and great physical stamina. Free with museum admission. 2pm. Golden Gate Park. Info: 379-8879.

Buriel Clay Theater

"Robert Johnson's Chitlin Circuit Revue," a celebration of Black History Month featuring a cast performing such dances as the Charleston, Lindy Hop, Buck Dancing, Rhythm Tap, the Stroll, Jitter Bug, etc. Music by Count Basie, Jimmy Rushing, Lionel Hampton, Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Washington, et al., plus Vaudeville acts and a children's talent showcase. Presented by DeVoine Entertainment. $15. Bar-B-Que from 6-7pm; talent show at 7pm; revue at 8pm. Center for African & African-American Arts & Culture, 762 Fulton St. Tix: 292-5157 or 563-3519.

Mills College, Oakland

"Women of Color in the Martial Arts and Self Defense," featuring Miyako Tanaka demonstrating Naginata, a traditional woman's fighting art from Japan; Janet Gee and her Chinese kung fu animal forms; Hand to Hand Self Defense Center's performance team; and a host of other highly trained practitioners of the warrior arts. Benefits scholarships for women of color to train in the arts and self-defense. $8. 8pm. Haas Pavilion, Mills College, 5000 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. Reservations: (510) 430-2172.

CenterStage, San Rafael

Oscar and Grammy Award-winning songwriter Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell; Pippin; Pocahontas; Children of Eden*, etc.) appears with cabaret stars Val Diamond (*Beach Blanket Babylon*) and Tim Di Pasqua. $26. 8pm. Also 2/27 at 5pm. Hoytt Theater at the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 North San Pedro Rd., San Rafael. Tix: 479-2000 or BASS.

Club Fab, Guerneville

Eighth Note Records triple album-release party. Join in an eclectic evening of modern pop, jazz, folk performances featuring acclaimed up-and-coming gay San Francisco artists Garrin Benfield (*Living a Dream*), Jallen Rix (*Time on a Chain*), and Michael Rodriguez (*Invocation*). $5 cover. Concerts starts at 9pm, followed by dancing 'til 2am. 16135 Main Street, Guerneville. Info: (707) 869-5708.

Universe

Official CD release party for the soundtrack to the new Madonna film, "The Next Best Thing," featuring songs by Olive, Moby, Groove Armada, Christina Aguilera and the grand lady herself. Free movie tix & CDs. Screening of new Madonna video. Dance mixes by DJs Jamie J and David Harness. $12. 21+. 177 Townsend St. (at Third St.).



Kent Taylor

Beebe Price jazzes up The Swallow. See Thursday.

Sun 27

Civic Center Plaza

Religious Witness with Homeless People sponsors a major community service to remember the 169 people who died homeless in S.F. in 1999. A simple but poignant and dramatic memorial will be created. 3:30pm. Info: 929-0785.

Yerba Buena Center

The Cypress String Quartet inaugurates its "Call and Response" Series, examining the effect of one composer upon another, creating a natural link between the standard repertoire and works by living composers. Including works by Mozart influenced by Haydn, Beethoven nodding to Mozart, and contemporary composer Dan Coleman inspired by the first two. $15 ($8 students/seniors). Forum, Yerba Buena Center, 701 Mission St. Tix: 978-2787.

University Christian Church, Berkeley

The San Francisco Chamber Singers present "Gertrude, Virgil & Four Saints," an original production featuring the writings of Virgil Thompson and Gertrude Stein and scenes from their opera, *Four Saints in Three Acts*. With Charles Shere and Carol Perkins as Thomson and Stein. Conceived and staged by Pamela Langston-Cox. Conducted by E.E. Grant IV. (Note: this production may also be seen as part of Humanities West's "Postcards from Paris" program at Herbst Theatre. See Friday). $20 ($15 students). 5pm. 2401 Le Conte (near Graduate Theological Union). Info: (415) 771-3352.

El Rio

Glamathon, a benefit for local glamour maven Deena Davenport, who in the early morning of January 28 woke in terror to find her bed on fire; the flames touched a portrait of Rodney O'Neil Austin which immediately flamed out of control. Ultimately, smoke and water damaged everything. To her rescue come host Johnny Kat along with musical performers Jen Gandy, Allison Hennessey, Jason Stein, Connie Champagne, Most Chill Slackmob, Dirtbox, Birdie Bob-Watt, Leigh Crow and Peter Fogel. Plus DJs Flynn DeMarco and Carrie Campbell, with drag faves Kennedy, Jordan L'-Moore, and Electro, plus spoken word by Sister Spit with Annie Sprinkle, Michelle Tea and Tara Jepsen. Donations appreciated. 3158 Mission St. (off Cesar Chavez/Army). Info: 282-3325 or 861-GLAM.

Mon 28

Kimo's

QComedy.com presents Gay Comedy Showcase, hosted by Nick Leonard. Tonight featuring Doug Holsclaw, Bridget Schwartz, Janice Lipton, Chantal, Tim Tayag, Christian Ward, Christian Simonson, Laurie Chapman and Eric Lindstrom. $5. 8pm. 1351 Polk St. (at Pine). Info: 541-5610.

SomArts Gallery

Opening reception: "How I Saved San Francisco: New Media Heroes of Our Urban Environment," an exhibition of "Super Hero" posters by youth. The young artists reinvented themselves as super heroes and media stars who, through non-violent super powers, clean up the city, save the homeless, solve traffic problems, etc. Their posters advertise their feats. Organized by Johana Poethig. Performances by the DoRight Girls, Cocoman, Killer Stopping Dude, and Retrofit Man. Free. 4-5:30pm. 934 Brannan St.



Adrian Roberts

A slew of musical and drag performers will play *Glamathon*, a benefit at El Rio for local glamour maven Deena Davenport. See Sunday.

Tue 29

Exit Theatre

First Seen, a producing playwrights' group sponsored by Theatre Rhinoceros, presents a "Leap Day Benefit Bash" hosted by playwright, performer, and all-around bon vivant P.A. Cooley. Featuring comedian, playwright and acting artistic director for Theatre Rhino Doug Holsclaw, magician and solo performer David Hirata, comic monologist Cathy Roy, and the twisted performance duo John Baumann and Jen Gwirtz. First Seen will present its 2000 season in the studio at Theatre Rhino from May 4-June 3. $20 suggested donation. 5:30-8pm. 156 Eddy St. (btwn Taylor & Mason). 643-6667.

Fine Arts Gallery, SFSU

Opening reception: "2000 Stillwell Student Art Exhibition," featuring new works by advanced MFA students and undergraduate art majors, selected by a panel of student jurors. Includes works in painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, glass, metal arts, textiles and video. Free. 4-6pm. Fine Arts Bldg., S.F. State University, 1600 Holloway Ave. 338-6535.

El Rio

Pippi Lovestocking hosts "Hairnetta's Hotspot," featuring sultry accordion music with Robin Lovejoy and Tom Teraglia, James "Elvis" Beckett, Cara Vida, and classic ballads by Maggie (Marlene Dietrich's X piano player), with Carole Z on guitar. Music by DJ Kat. $5. 8pm. 3158 Mission St. (btwn. Caesar Chavez & Valencia) 21+. 282-3325.

Wed 1

M.H. de Young Memorial Museum

Join art critic and guest curator Glen Helfand as he gives visitors an inside look at the creation of the museum's hit show, "Bay Area Artists Consider the de Young." Helfand will be joined by internationally recognized artist Tim Rollins + K.O.S. (Kids of Survival), who for nearly 20 years has inspired at-risk youth to create artwork. Also on hand will be Karen Moss, the new Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs at the San Francisco Art Institute. Free. 6-7:15pm. Gallery 41. Golden Gate Park. 750-3624.

City Lights Booksellers

City Lights celebrates the latest publication in the Semiotext(e) West Coast Native Agents series, *Aliens and Anorexia* by Chris Kraus. Appearing in person will be editor, filmmaker and novelist Kraus along with local spoken-word diva Michelle Tea, founder of Sister Spit and author of *The Passionate Mistakes and Intricate Corruption of One Girl in America*. Free. 7pm. 261 Columbus Ave.

Get Lost Travel Books

Writers for the popular anthology *Travelers' Tales: Hawaii* read from their published accounts. Free. 7pm. 1825 Market St. 437-0529.

Asian Art Museum

Opening: "Bamboo Masterworks: Japanese Baskets from the Lloyd Cotsen Collection," a rare opportunity to view the extraordinary beauty and intricate craftsmanship of these unique pieces, and to appreciate their historical and cultural importance. Free first Wednesday. 9:30am-8:45pm. Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Thu 2

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Tolerance Project for Teens presents "The Other Side of the Closet," by Edward Roy, a theatre-in-education play that teaches tolerance of gays and lesbians and communicates vital information to teens grappling with issues of peer pressure, youth violence, homophobia, behavior norms and expectations, self-esteem, discrimination and stigmatization, identity and friendship. It follows five hormonally driven teens as they deal with the emotional fallout when one of them is seen coming out of a gay bar. It explores issues of gay panic and gay bashing. $5 youth; $10 adults. 10am Thursdays (for school and youth groups); 8pm Fridays & Saturdays. 2pm Sundays. Thru March 12. 25 Van Ness Ave. Info/tix: 861-4914.

The Marsh

Charlie Varon plays 20 characters in his new show, "The People's Violin." It tells the story of Sol Shank, experimental filmmaker, transplanted New York Jew, and unhappy son of a famous father. When Sol undertakes a film about his father, he discovers a mysterious violin, launching him on a quest that uncovers hidden chapters in his father's past. Not a comedy. Thursdays: pay what you can; $12 Fri. & Sat. Thru April 15. 1062 Valencia St. (near 22nd St.). 826-5750 ext. 4.

Theater Artaud

Annie Rosenthal & Company present "There We Are," contemporary/multimedia dance theater in collaboration with filmmaker David Scoane and writer Sarah Luck Pearson. Interplays dance, film, audio and spoken text. $14 & $16. 8:30pm. Thru 3/4. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

Diego Rivera Theatre, City College

"The Kurt Weill Centennial Cabaret," celebrating the 100th birthday of the well-known German and American composer with songs and music from his musicals and operas performed by students and community members. Free. City College Campus, 50 Phelan Ave. Info: 239-3132.

Eureka Theatre

42nd Street Moon presents its annual fundraising revue, this year titled "Jazz Up Your Lingerie!" It celebrates a century of movie musicals. Music from the earliest "talkies" through the movie musicals' golden age. Music by Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, Rodgers & Hart, and many others. $25 Thur.; $35 Fri., Sat., & Sun. 215 Jackson (btwn. Battery & Front). 441-3687.

A Different Light

Andrew Merling and Doug Wythe read from *The Wedding*, a revealing book about how a gay couple's family went from disbelieving to understanding when they decided to get married with a traditional religious ceremony. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Catharine Clark Gallery

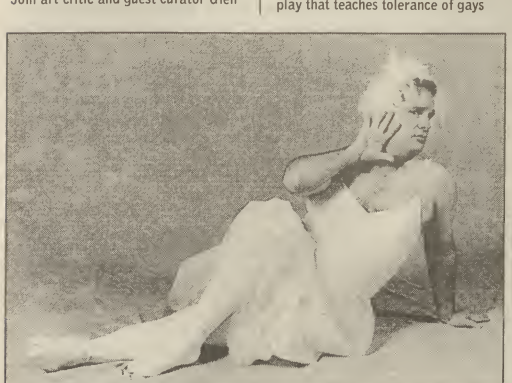
Opening reception: "Negative Positive: New Cameraless Photographs" by David Berg and "Screen: New Paintings" by Andoni Euba. Berg has revivified painting through the assistance of photography, the very technology that predicted painting's death. Euba's paintings suggest photographs of natural forms, but remain purely painting. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. 49 Geary St., 2nd floor. 399-1439.

111 Minna Gallery

Opening reception: "Good / Blanco," new paintings by Gomez Bueno and Eric White. Free. 6pm-late. 111 Minna St. 974-1719.

The Swallow

Beebe Price, the toast of Martuni's, The Boom-Boom Room, and Harry's on Fillmore returns to one of her favorite haunts with more of her scintillating Cajun jazzy blues. No cover. 9:30pm. 1750 Polk St. 775-4152.



Master of Ceremonies P.A. Cooley dolls up the First Seen, First Leap benefit bash at Exit Theatre. See Tuesday.

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Send your calendar event listings to:

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Leather from SF to Chicago

Tales of two cities

by Mister Marcus

This past weekend was one of leathery action and energy in both San Francisco and Chicago. Here in Babylon by the Bay, the Mr. May 2001 bare chest contest took place at the Powerhouse, and on Saturday, the annual Inter-Club Fund Motorcycle Awards was held at Daddy's. The bear nation converged in San Francisco over the weekend as well for International Bear Rendezvous and the International Mr. Bear competition on Sunday night. I was in Chicago until Monday morning, but they say it was a whopper of a party! More on this event later.

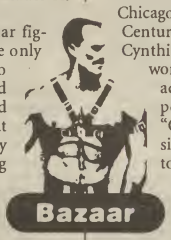
In the Windy City, it was the world-famous Cell Block bar's annual leatherfest featuring the Mr. Cell Block Leather 2000 contest along with several other events including the long-awaited opening of the Leather Archives & Museum.

In classic exercises of the leather nation as a mutual admiration society, the glitterati in both cities heaped accolades on each other.

With so many stellar figures in attendance, the only way to figure out who was who and who did what was to sit back and observe, learning what they've done, how they did it, and how long they've been at their chosen pursuits, including efforts to benefit others. And it soon became clear that leaders care not only about showing off, but about their community's mental and physical health, the homeless among them, our youth, and our past and future.

While Mother Nature threw a few stumbling blocks in the way of travelers to Chicago, (many were stranded for hours in alien airports), at 1400 hours on Sunday, tackling the 11 steps to the front doors of the Archives & Museum was an exhilarating thrill.

Joseph Bean, the executive director of our new LA&M was eloquent in presenting awards to several of the 20th century icons of the leather community. Recognized were Chuck Renslow of Chicago as Leatherman of the Century, and San Francisco's Cynthia Slater as Leatherwoman of the Century. An additional 21 leather people were honored as "Centurions" for making significant contributions to leather's first century.



In addition, a total of 13 people and groups were cited as "people to watch out for" in the new millennium.

Saturday night was busy in Chicago. The Cell Block was jammed to the rafters as four men went through the paces for judges Hervé Bernard, Bruce Chopnik, Graylin Thornton and outgoing Mr. Cell Block Kevin Powers. IML Tony Mills was delayed by weather messes and so served as the tally master. Of course, the Patti Brown-David Boyer production (honchos at the CB) included our community's premiere emcee, Frank Nowicki, who injected gobs of humor into the proceedings with contestants Jeff Bass, Kevin Clancy, John Fuller and Roger Jordan — all genuine Midwest hunks. Personal interviews, speeches, questions, and physique categories ensued and the crowd was vociferous in support of each contestant.

Cell Block-Male Hide Leather competition is always a class act. It featured shuttle buses, a fabulous brunch at Buddies, almost-swank accommodations at the beautiful Best Western Hawthorne Terrace hostelry, and fabulous prizes — all you would expect from a premiere leather bar with a great staff. When Tony finished tallying the scores, the winner turned out to be Kevin Clancy, a 31-year old attorney with 191 pounds distributed over a smooth 6'1" frame. The first runner-up was John Fuller, a merchandising type, and second runner-up was an irresistibly cute banker, Jeff Bass. Bedlam in the house.

North Halsted St. rang with cheers and jubilation as the winner was announced. Camera flashes exploded, the "special in-

next page ▶



Mister Marcus

IML Bruce Chopnik and IMsL Pam Meyer welcomed Kevin Clancy, the new Mr. Cellblock Leather, to the leather title world last Saturday, February 19 in Chicago.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, February 24-27

Mr. San Diego Leather 99, Mike Hargiss, passes his sash in the Southland with a kick-off party at The Flame on Thursday; the Meet & Greet is on Friday at Wolf's, followed later by a "model" search; Saturday is the Mr. San Diego Leather 2000 contest at the Hole, and Sunday, there's a victory brunch. Thanks Mike for a great year with the title!

In New Orleans, several leather persons will be honored at the 10th Annual Pantheon of Leather Awards. The votes are in and some deserving people will be honored.

In San Francisco, TJ Istvan and Sheba end one of the best reigns as emperor and empress of San Francisco. They were everywhere raising funds and consciousness for the homeland of the title system. The coronation is at the Gift Center Pavilion on Saturday night. Thank you both for a wonderful year!

San Francisco's 15 Association celebrate their 20th anniversary this weekend with a banquet at the Cliff House on Friday night and dungeon parties on Saturday and Sunday.

Friday, February 25

Lesbian Sex Mafia in NYC presents a unique play party with their Ride the Horsey night. Wanna be roped, ridden, prodded and prance around? This one sounds like a winner!

BJ Cavnor steps aside as Mr. Powerhouse Leather 1999 tonight as his successor is chosen at that bar. No details at my deadline, but there will be prizes and a chance to compete at Mr. San Francisco Leather 2000 on March 10. Be there! Thanks BJ. You did us proud!

Saturday, February 26

Pegasus MOC one day ride to Hollister to visit the Corbin Factory. Meet at 0830 Castro Theater, depart at 0900 and ride, ride, ride. For more info, call 861-2872 or email to PegasusMOC@rocketmail.com.

Sunday, February 27

Daddy and Daddy's Boy Andre' and Lance kick off their "Clothing Drive 4", 1600-2000 at Daddy's with Solomon Rose entertaining at the $7 beer/soda bust. Bring used but serviceable clothing for the St. Anthony Foundation to Daddy's, the Edge, Powerhouse & Eagle.

Thursday, March 2

Mr. June 2001 bare chest calendar man gets chosen at the Powerhouse tonight at 2100. Win $100! Fame! Fortune! A husband/wife!

Friday, March 10

Tickets on sale now for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2001 contest tonight at Club Townsend. Come and see who will carry the torch for us in Chicago at IML in May. $20 advance, $25/door. Available at Auto Erotica (4077A 18th Street).

Lips on the half shell

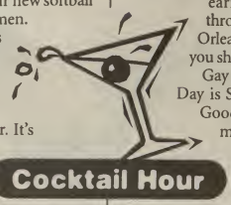
by Sweet Lips

Like slurping down gooey raw things? I mean oysters, of course! In March, Mayes restaurant on lovely Polkstrasse will be having its annual "Oyster Fest." Any way you like 'em, you can have 'em. You like me on the half shell, honey? I'm reasonably priced. The classic oyster house also has a great Sunday brunch.

Did you know that Little Mikey is still holding forth at Reflections on Polk St., along with the always popular Bruce?

The Club Rendez-Vous throws the Portland Party at 10 a.m. this Saturday, February 26, with Yours Truly, Empress of Alcatraz & Czarina de Turk, as host. Dennis ("Pork 'n' Pinwheels") Tyler will be serving brunch, and Someone will be crowned the new Emperor and Empress of Alcatraz. The suspense is mounting.

Play ball! The Club R-V would like to announce their new softball team, The Club Hitmen. When these guys walked into the Club, we all looked up to the ceiling, and our jaws just dropped to the floor. It's sure nice to have some *big* men around! Manager Ken Patterson has been involved with the GSL for a long time, and we are happy to have him and the team as part of the family.



Sat., March 4, Club R-V goes wild with Mardi Gras! Put on your masque and join the revelry in a who-can-reveal-the-most Costume and Masque Contest. Taste some Cajun delights, and groove to jazzy music. You might even earn some beads thrown from our New Orleans-style balcony if you show us your candy!

Gay Softball Opening Day is Sunday, March 5. Good luck to the Hitmen, who will be joining us later that day at the Club. Oh my! Men in baseball uniforms and boys in masks — sounds like a great mix to La Lips!

Happy birthday to Ray (another pitcher, please) Carmona, who will be celebrating at the Club on Fat Tuesday. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

terests" pressed their business cards into Kevin's hands and the congratulatory line formed immediately.

I daresay Mr. Clancy will be a force to deal with at IML 2000. And needless to say, several out-of-town title-holders were present, and at least four of the seven IML judges were there too. It was a sight to see the massive "networking" orgy. Chicago's leather community is alive and well, and it put the full moon outside to shame with its glowing splendor.

The celebration continued deep into the snowy night.

Powerhouse & daddies

In San Francisco last Thursday, seven men trooped to the stage of the Powerhouse as Lenny Broberg did the emcee honors in choosing Mr. May 2001 for the bare chest calendar. They say it was no easy task for the judges, but when all was said and done, Chris Goad won the calendar spot with Jeff Cilions, the runner-up.

Then it was the annual Inter-Club Fund Motorcycle Awards, which enjoyed a packed house at Daddy's. Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet shared the emcee duties.

Thanks to Gary Kenyon, I swiftly got the results for the major award winners, and it warmed my heart to learn that Andy Rose and Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt were voted Man and Woman of the Year. Yahoo!

The Golden Gate Guards again swept the club awards, claiming seven statuettes in various categories.

Mike Marrero scored his second Biker of the Year accolade, and independent biker David Preston shared the Buddy Rider award with Mike Mason of LA's Warriors MC.

My goombah, Tommie Thomas, received the Frank Benoit Award.

Castro Canyon rang in celebration of the winners — all of them deserving.

Just do good

Whether in Chicago or San Francisco, our leather nation was out there doing things, honoring their own, helping others in need, bestowing wisdom on younger people, inspiring the timid, encouraging and accepting diversity in ideology, all races, new ideas and genders. Jeffrey Tucker is right. It is, indeed, "Better Together". Togetherness is our salvation. ▼

Comedy, Errors

◀ page 31

the wide-eyed brother and his tarter sibling. Schulman is an appealing feminine talent who effortlessly convinces us of her characters' masculinity without resorting to obvious tricks.

Each of the brothers has a servant named Dromio, and Brad DePlanche, outfitted in a bellboy uniform, gives this duo a distinctive comic kick. The multiple role-playing is not limited to the twins. The exquisite Joan Mankin, at her burlesque best, plays three male characters, while Adam Gavzer takes on four roles, the best being a merchant played as burly Russian. Brian Yates Sharber doesn't do much with the Duke, but his courtesan is a regular spitfire.

Poor Susan Marie Brecht as the querulous wife of one of the Antipholus twins and Johanna Falls as her more winsome sister only get to play their single roles, but they do so skillfully in their flapper-era frocks. At piano, Scrumbly Koldewyn gets an occasional line while providing snatches of theme music for the various characters.

In a pre-show overture, Koldewyn opens with a few bars of "Brush Up Your Shakespeare," a particularly apt description of what Scheie has achieved in his fourth visit to *The Comedy of Errors*. For today's audiences, he has found the comedy in *Comedy*. ▼

The Comedy of Errors will run at the Berkeley City Club through March 19. Tickets are $25-$28. Call (510) 843-4822.

Strictly Tango

◀ page 34

then his M.A. in composition from Mills College, where he had a full scholarship. "I was still playing vibes at State, but I bought an accordion in a flea market for $150, one of those gaudy, piano-style instruments, and taught myself to play it. I needed something to noodle on that you didn't have to set up like a drum kit or vibes. I fooled around with Cajun, Zydeco, Tex-Mex, but it didn't do much for me."

He pauses and says, almost reverently, "And then I bought a Piazzolla CD. The rest is history." Meyer purchased his bandoneón in Minnesota, where German immigrants had apparently introduced the instrument. "It was old, had been sitting unused for 10 years and, boy, they can sound *nasty* when they aren't played. I taught myself German-style fingering [the bandoneón has buttons instead of keys like the accordion], and after a while, it came back to life."

The first piece Meyer transcribed was Piazzolla's "Oblivion," one of the most rapturous melodies written in the 20th century, and subject of 101 cover versions from cello to saxophone. Meyer's nine-minute version, for six-piece tango band (he includes a viola player with Piazzolla's ideal quintet of bandoneón, bass, piano, guitar and violin), introduces some amazing time shifts. Yet he adheres to Piazzolla's style in both transcriptions and his own tango-ish compositions: a gorgeous tune improvised in the jazz manner, but never divorced too far from the melody, harmony or rhythm. When Strictly Tango plays Meyer's own music, they call themselves Parlando. Their latest CD, *Tangled Lies* (good pun), is available from www.parlando.com.

Piazzolla insisted that his "Nuevo Tango" (Tango + Tragedy + Comedy + Brothel = New Tango) was for listening, not dancing. When he returned to Buenos Aires after studying with Nadia Boulanger, who encouraged him to write concert music in the tango style, Piazzolla was considered a traitor to traditional tango, and even received death threats. Some of that rigid contention still exists in the tango world. Meyer's band had to learn how to play dance music. "We were playing too much Piazzolla, and it isn't really suitable for dancing. We still don't play traditional tango, because it isn't our culture, after all, and imitation is impossible.

"At first, I don't think the dance community liked us very much." Strictly Tango performed cover versions of famous tango tunes at the Mark Hopkins for almost a year in 1998-99. One outraged traditionalist referred to them as "a bar mitzvah band." Meyer, who is both humorous and humble, thinks this characterization is a scream. "He was probably right at the time, but we've learned to accommodate ourselves to dancers.

"The fact that we play this gig at Glas Kat every Monday, with as many as 100 dancers showing up, and that we're playing for the Bay Area Tango Association gala proves that we've learned something about pleasing even traditional tango dancers." ▼

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Rupert Everett

◀ Arts cover

man face-sucking in *The Next Best Thing*?"

The pause that follows seems endless. Everett's face is blank, but I see the wheels behind those canny brown orbs turning frantically. The almost-answer emerges sideways, falling from Everett's impertinent mauve lips and landing somewhere between spin and the-whole-truth-and-nothing-but.

"I had a hard enough time getting them to allow the bedroom scene where my character and the cardiologist are getting out of bed and saying goodbye."

Everett is a movie star, a former rent boy, and openly gay. Filmmaking is a collaborative effort.

Business as usual

"Hollywood's not really homophobic, it's just business-oriented," Everett explains. "Whatever's going to make them money is what they're interested in. Films like this are very puzzling to them because they don't know where the audience is; if there's an audience; if one audience is going to be turned off because it's too in-your-face; or if another audience is going to be turned off because of the many compromises that have to be made."

The film is being released by Paramount Pictures, at roughly the same time Paramount Television is developing an hour-long talk show with the overtly homophobic Dr. Laura Shlessinger. It is an irony that is not lost on Everett, and one that supports his theory that Hollywood is just about the dollar.

"This is the kind of issue that makes me really happy not to be American. Coming to this country and hearing Jerry Falwell say, 'You're like a junky or an alcoholic,' stuff like that ... well, it doesn't happen anywhere else like it happens here. It's totally scary, I think. I don't know what to say about it."

Everett has shepherded the script of *The Next Best Thing* through many changes, fighting to make the story of a gay man and straight woman who co-parent a son less stereotypical. Unlike in the original script, Everett's character (Robert) is not a queeny interior decorator, and he doesn't have to put on a Tarzan suit, get drunk, and slather on whipped cream to have a one night stand with a woman.

"I wanted the gay guy to be a hero in the film and also have a sex life. We had an idea that he was a practicing homosexual, and not just a Stately Homo with no other life — basically a nursemaid. I was looking to do another gay role that was still funny and accessible to Middle-American straight people, not just a ghetto film, a specialized film, and the story seemed to be ideal. It's kind of jokey and fun to start with, and then it has a turn, and it deals in the end with a series of serious subjects. Among those, the most beguiling to me is that you can be a practicing homosexual and a really good father. I think that's a very important thing."

As for Madonna's participation, "Apart from the fact that we're friends, she is one of the few women you can put into a gay club and everyone would still want to fuck her. I thought it would be an easy transition for the audience to make. I don't think you could put Helen Hunt in this role. Madonna has a kind of sexual appeal across the board, which I think is part of her fascination."



Tom Bianchi

Rupert Everett in South Beach

"How intimate is your relationship with Madonna?"

"Have I boffed her? No."

This is as far as Rupert Everett will go in discussing his private life. He will not answer questions about any current boyfriends, or even if they exist.

There's no business...

Everett's path to Hollywood, and now the Delano Hotel, was a circuitous one. At 15, he left a monastery to study acting in London, but he was expelled from acting school at 17.

"Well, I was young and energetic, and I came from a very middle-class background. One of the things I thought when going into acting was that acting, the world of show business, was a netherworld where everyone was drunk, high, sex maniacs, and all that stuff. That was a big mistake. When I finally got to drama school, it was as bureaucratic as the monastery I'd come out of. Show business is a very middle-class event. I was young and idealistic, and I was kind of disgusted with it. And it coincided with the punk happening, I was barefooted all the time and aggressively inharmonious to the group, I guess. I was endlessly badgering and answering back, not showing up, lots of 17-year-old things, just being a pain, probably."

Determined to be an actor, Everett did everything possible to meet those who could help his career; but rather early in life, ego defeated opportunism on more than one occasion — including Everett's first meeting with openly gay John Schlesinger, who directed *The Next Best Thing*.

"I met him when I was 15 and working in a shoe shop, and he came in. I didn't realize who he was. He wasn't exactly flirting, but he said, 'Oh, you're a rather dainty little thing,' or something like that, and he wanted a pair of shoes they didn't have in his size. I said to him, very snappy, 'Well, you should have bigger feet then, shouldn't you,' and I sent him on his way. He always remembers that story.

"Every time I met a director I would completely turn them off. I went to this party and heard Franco Zefferelli was there, and I was determined to meet him. I found myself standing next to this kind of older guy who started to try and pick me up, and I said, 'Fuck off!' And three friends of mine near me were looking at me strangely, and I said, 'What are you looking at me like that for?' And they said, 'That was Franco Zefferelli.'"

Stardom, which finally arrived for Everett with the 1997 release of *My Best Friend's Wedding*, came unexpectedly, and the actor's homosexuality was just part of the package.

"I'm sure I would have been more defensive about it if I hadn't gotten so successful, really at age 37. I'd put the whole ideal of coming to America and an American career behind me and settled into life in European cinema. I made really good films, but no one ever saw them. Homosexuality wasn't really an issue for me, so when I came here, I really didn't have any defense mechanisms around it. After all, if you're looking at cause and effect, and a big bonus from heaven, I got my bonus just from being honest about myself. So it seems to me that everything points in the direction that this sort of thing pays off for you in the end.

"Everyone's racist about someone, and a lot of people are phobic. I don't want to be around a lot of hetero hell couples, quite frankly. I don't want to force everyone to accept me, because I don't accept everyone else. I think a lot of people are hideous. Straight people blob out as soon as they get married. We're kept on our feet because it gets far more competitive as you get older. You're forced to keep interested in things and keep looking at things."

According to Everett, the aging process of gay men, where they reach the age of invisibility at 40, is somewhat elongated by fame. "Getting older and being gay is, I suppose, a crisis that's just waiting to happen. But it's easier being famous," he laughs. "That takes 10 or 15 years off your age, easily."

Gay press confab

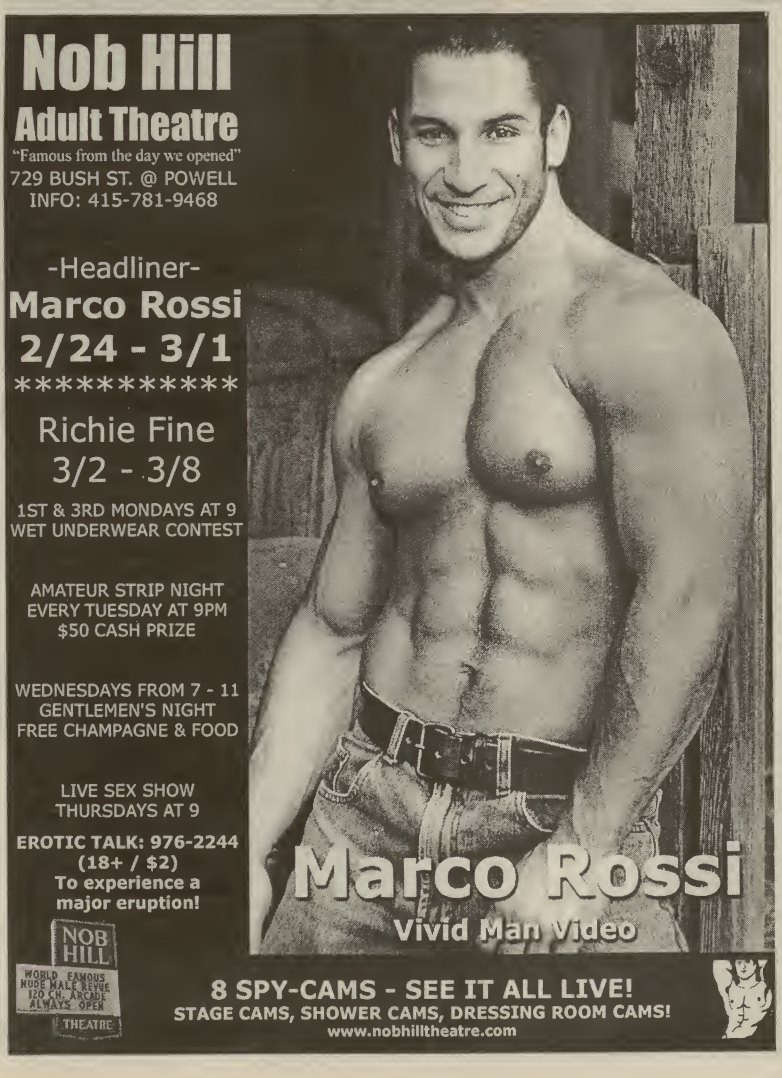
Furiously throwing clothes into my suitcase, and constantly checking my watch to see how much time is left before my plane departs, I'm still amazed by Rupert Everett's resolve and the way he's thrown all his weight behind *The Next Best Thing* — right down to the selection of journalists invited to Miami. It has been an unusual gathering of the gay/lesbian press, and it did not happen by accident.

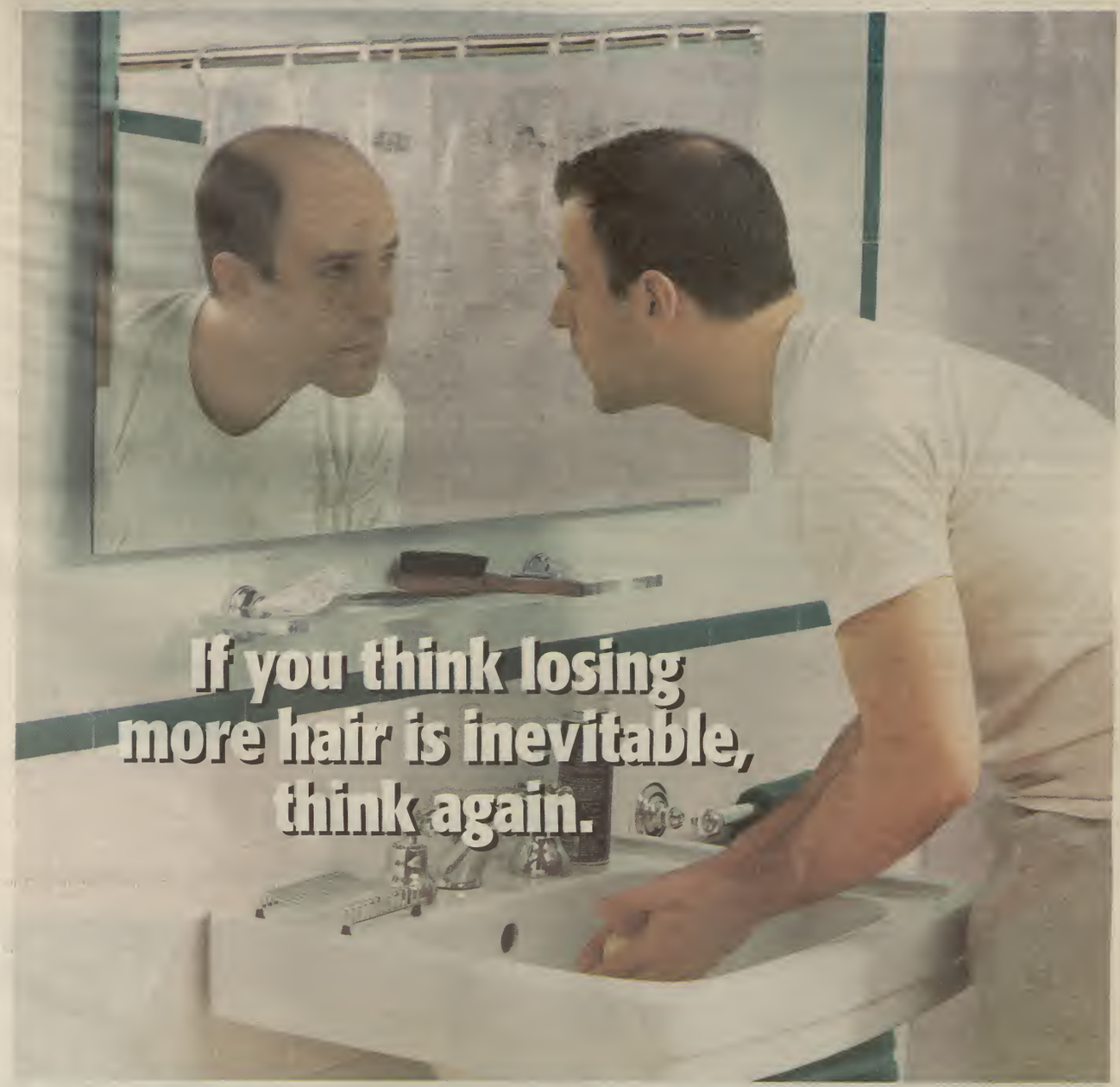
"I was the driving force behind this junket. It's a film where the lead character is gay, and we want as many gay people as possible to be aware of the film. My particular problem with the usual way this is done, in *The Advocate* or *Out* magazine, is that I don't terribly like those publications. Politically, I'm not in line with a lot of those people, I don't really have a political stance. Every time I've dealt with those magazines, if you don't share the political angle of these modern-day prophets, they take a very hard line with you.

"I like the gay press that is very much to do with practical things like beer busts, new drugs, club venues, and hookers. If I go to a town, the type of gay magazine I want to find is one that will tell me where to go, what's happening, what's going on in that town. And I think that's a great thing, because you can kind of get a vibe of the town. And the great thing about the gay scene is there's different things in different places, and in each town you can find this individuality. I'm an actor, not a politician, and I prefer the idea of someone just leafing through me in club, so to speak, than showing myself up for not having enough of a political line in an in-depth sort of wank-off."

If Rupert Everett is not a political activist, he is surely the next best thing. ▼

The Next Best Thing **opens on Friday, March 3.**





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*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

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Only a doctor can determine if PROPECIA is right for you. PROPECIA is for **men only.** Further, women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA and should not handle crushed or broken tablets because of the risk of a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

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Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

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Patient Information about PROPECIA*

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Generic name: finasteride (fin-AS-tur-eyed)

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Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.

PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel*** Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- **Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:**
  - **must not use PROPECIA**
  - **should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.**

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- **PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.**

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. **PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.**

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you.
Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

1-800-830-7375, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. (ET).

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The hubris express

Errol Morris uncovers Mr. Death

by Robert Julian

Errol Morris, America's premiere documentary filmmaker, is back with another of his weirdly idiosyncratic subjects in *Mr. Death - The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter Jr.* This time around, Morris zeroes in on a strange little guy from Malden, Massachusetts who, by profession, was an engineer. The son of a civil servant who worked at a state penitentiary, Leuchter grew up around convicts and prisons. Later in life, he sort of fell into a job redesigning the electric chair for the State of Tennessee. This job led to similar assignments, including designing lethal injection systems, gallows, and gas chambers for other state prison systems. Unfortunately for Leuchter, his success in this rare specialization got him noticed.

A 40-cups-of-coffee, six-packs-of-cigarettes-per-day man, Leuchter gets a call one day from some attorneys in Canada who are defending Ernst Zundel, a neo-Nazi who wrote several tracts alleging the Holocaust did not happen. The attorneys need to send an "expert" to Auschwitz and, through chemical analysis of the camp's remains, determine if it was actually the site of mass executions by poison gas. Leuchter, ill-equipped to conduct such a study but too full of himself to pass on the opportunity, goes off to Germany and sews the seeds of his downfall. On the basis of his own shoddy brick and mortar samples, Leuchter not only concludes that no one was gassed at Auschwitz, but he testifies in court and goes on the stump to neo-Nazi organizations, making speeches about his "authoritative" research and astonishing conclusions.

As you might imagine, the consequences of Leuchter's actions are dire. He loses his work, his wife, his home, his car, his credentials as an engineer — and he is hounded by Jewish groups. Errol Morris tells the story by employing his standard talking-head shot for the interview with Leuchter and supplementing this footage with color recreations and black-and-white video footage of Leuchter at Auschwitz. Visually speaking, the film is wonderfully composed, with so many masterful shots that you can't help noticing what a skilled, sophisticated filmmaker Morris is. The opening credits, seemingly inspired by James Whale's *Frankenstein*, are particularly noteworthy.

As a man hoisted by his own petard, you couldn't find a better paradigm than Fred Leuchter. He's such a simpleton that you really can't hate him. And although Morris is not above editorializing by the juxtaposition of images and the way he cuts together the footage, his portrait of the hapless Leuchter remains nonjudgmental. *Mr. Death* is an engrossing object lesson in the dangers of believing your own shit, and no one could tell this story better than Errol Morris. ▼



Nubar Alexanian

Fred A. Leuchter, Jr. in Errol Morris' *Mr. Death*

***Mr. Death - The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter, Jr.* opens Friday in San Francisco.**

Georgia O'Keeffe

◀ *Arts cover*

ingdales version of "The Santa Fe Style," O'Keeffe was an outsider in Manhattan, a suffragette in the Age of the New Woman, and a bohemian Easterner who at first tentatively, then firmly, planted roots in the remote Southwest. Harry Parker, Director of the Fine Arts Museums, compares her to the Bay Area's Beat artist Jay DeFeo. She was a woman working in a world of men, and she "got to do what the men could not."

Inanimate objects

The title of the exhibition *Georgia O'Keeffe: The Poetry of Things*, at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor through May 14, is to be taken literally. In 1915, O'Keeffe divided her iconography into two topics: "landscapes" and "things." The focus of this exhibition is her portrayals of these "things," fruits and vegetables from her garden at Lake George, colorful autumn leaves, and of course the bones and skulls which are the hallmark of her work from the time of her first visit to New Mexico in 1917.

If her work today appears somewhat cliché, so accustomed are we to seeing such O'Keeffe knock-offs as greeting cards, or her original works reproduced *ad nauseam* as advertisements for the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, it is worthwhile to consider the artist in historical context. Like her teacher Arthur Wesley Dow, O'Keeffe defied the traditional norms of space, scale and perspective as represented in the art of the century into which they were born: the 19th. Her early architectural studies of Manhattan brought poetry to the urban landscape. Her later abstractions of her home in the remote New Mexico hamlet of Abiquiu are masterworks of minimalism: a piece of black door here, a wedge of blue sky there. It's hard to remember, and almost impossible to envision from our vantage point, that, like the works of her contemporary Arthur Dove, O'Keeffe's abstractions from the early decades of the century represented something entirely new in the lexicon of art history. The fact that she was also a woman made her early simple paintings and drawings doubly astonishing. A selection of charcoal drawings from the 1917 show which Alfred Stieglitz installed without O'Keeffe's approval demonstrates her innovativeness.

Some of the best of these works are hanging at the Legion. The visual pleasures are vast: a wall of "leaf" studies, some surprisingly subdued still lives of fruit, the expected flashy poppies (which curator Elizabeth Hutton Turner calls "wildly impossible combinations of bold colors"), and a corner devoted to the "pelvis" series, which is interesting especially because the viewer can observe O'Keeffe interpreting and reinterpreting the same forms in side-by-side compositions. Among the strongest works are the crosses, and although her masterpiece at the Chicago Art Institute is conspicuously absent, two New Mexico penitente crosses (both from 1929) represent this theme well, and a little-known Canadian variation, *Cross by the Sea, Canada*, from 1932, presents an interesting counterbalance to the more famous Southwestern scenes. There is at least one total iconographic surprise: *Fish Hook from Hawaii Nº 1*, from 1937.

The paintings and drawings in the Phillips/Dallas exhibition have been complemented here by several additions from the permanent collections of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and the Achenbach Foundation. Context for O'Keeffe's early modernist work is provided by the addition of prints by Hiroshige and Kandinsky, as well as some astutely selected decorative arts: a 1903 Iris Vase and a Tiffany glass Jack in the Pulpit from 1900. At the end of the exhibition, a superb selection of black-and-white photographs complement the O'Keeffe galleries. Drawn from local collections, they include work by the f.64 group of photographers: Imogen Cunningham, Dorothea Lange, Paul Strand, and others. A selection of eight gelatin silver prints also present O'Keeffe herself as viewed through the adoring lens of Stieglitz, who was by then her husband. ▼



Laura Gilpin

Georgia O'Keeffe in 1953

***Georgia O'Keeffe: The Poetry of Things* is a ticketed exhibition. The Legion of Honor is at 34th Ave. & Clement. Info: 863-3330.**

Ennio

◀ *page* 31

drag. His slips into a little something that suggests, say, Peggy Lee, while "Fever" plays on the soundtrack. But his wigs and costumes, constructed from flat pieces of paper, are instant caricatures brought to life by Marchetto's expressively wild eyes, big lips, and body language. There is often a joke within the joke. With Peggy Lee, it emerges as a fever thermometer.

I counted 45 characters that Marchetto impersonated, and I'm sure I've missed a few. Some only appear for an instant, while some get an extended showcase. In the case of Whitney Houston, not only does the singer get tweaked, but so does her biggest hit song. "I Will Always Love You," with some engineering tricks, becomes even more overbearing, to considerable comic effect.

Marchetto is at his best when his impersonations go beyond a sight gag, when there is an edge or a purposeful absurdity to the evocations. He can occasionally stumble. He undercuts a hilarious moment with Celine Dion aboard the *Titanic* by uncleverly communicating his distaste for the singer. And sometimes, even with an audience primed for the surreal, the transformations make no sense.

Yet even when they don't, the process of transformation is inevitably entertaining. We quickly catch onto the system, and whenever we see Marchetto's hand move toward the edges of a costume, we know something is about to happen. He even teases us, like a stripper, moving a flap back and forth before finally revealing what is hidden beneath.

Marchetto has over 100 characters from which to craft his show according to the city and country in which he is performing. By design or by accident, his San Francisco show is filled with a trove of gay icons. But whatever it is he is doing, Marchetto is on the cutting edge. ▼

***Ennio* will run at Theatre on the Square through March 12. Tickets are $25-$35. Call 433-9500.**





BAR TALK

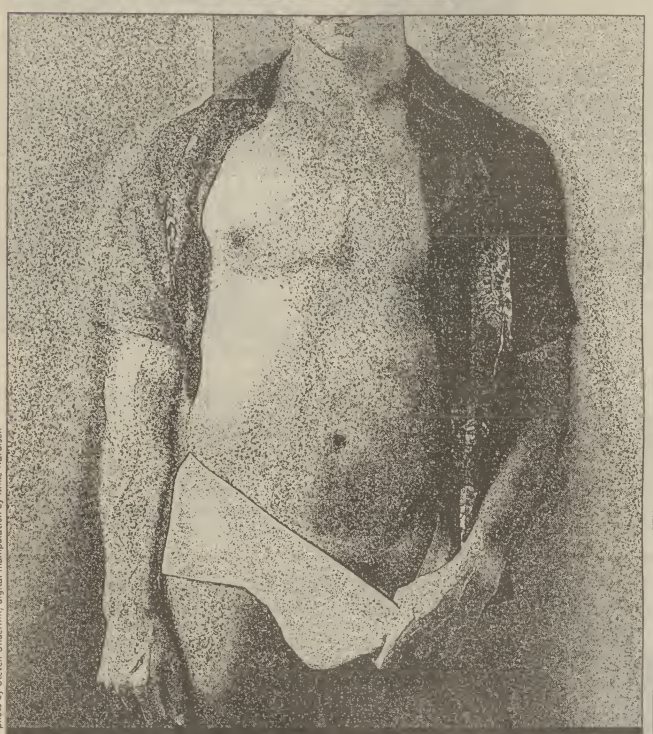


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PARTING GLANCES

Cala Mkt 18th St,1/20 4:45PM
You: Goodlooking brn hair, tan slacks, clean shave, w/cart, hunkie, white car, Buick? Only bought 1 veggie, me: goodlooking Noe Valley, both 40ish? ☎ 71475

TimfromrichmondsteamworksJan21
I had a blast and can't believe I got confused where to meet you for that ride to bart. Hope you catch this we can finish what we started, Ron. ☎ 71477

Another Fiasco?
Dan, you met Marr Friday, 1/29. You are such a sweet and dear man. We owe it to ourselves to meet, maybe just once more, fiasco or no. Please call. ☎ 71531

KK
You gave me a tour of Shinjuku, Shibuya, & Asakusa. We spent that night together. Ever since then my heart has been yours. PB ☎ 71500

Union Square Tue Jan 25 3:00pm
You: cute, thin, blond with glasses, and great smile, carrying your bag. Me: dark hair, glasses, white shirt, tie, black jacket, smiling back. Followed you to Geary St. Call me! ☎ 71501

1/22 2:30pm On 19th Street
Me: black cowboy hat w/female friend- You: tan shirt & brown pants- We both looked several times, still interested? I am! ☎ 71502

Arco Gas Station Sunday Jan 30
At San Leandro Arco station, Davis St. We were both filling up- you with a station wagon. Interested? Please call. ☎ 71503

Safeway On Market Jan. 24th
On a Monday around 10am, you: tall, thin, brown hair, soul patch, wearing yellow raincoat and rainboats. Our eyes met, sorry I didn't say hi- would like to meet you. ☎ 71504

Carhart Pants Both You And I.
18th Street. Me pizza in hand. We exchanged quick glance then you walked in to burrito place 2/1 1ish. ☎ 71505

Pendulum Superbowl Sunday
Forgot my name?....or giving me the opportunity to place an ad. Let's get together. First rounds on me. ☎ 71530

Felix 1/30 Playhouse On Jones
You: handsome, nice guy. Me: thin, guy in mirror knees up, I said "ouch, ouch, ouch". You found I don't talk w/ my mouth full. Help me stretch my abilities. ☎ 71532

Steamworks Strawberry Blonde
Washed each other in showers, dying to fulfill more of your fantasies, call to set up more time to reach'em. ☎ 71533

God Bless America @ Detour
For wearing those baggy jeans with a jockstrap underneath. ☎ 71476

Doug I Lost Your Number!
2/3 left you at Civic Center station, supposed to call you that afternoon. Cell phone didn't store your number. Call me. I can't wait. -Paul ☎ 71534

Tom At B.V. Park Sunday 2/6
We shared intimacy, as well as heat, sat on log, and talked. Would love to share more with you! Alan awaits,....for full body contact and other uplifting experiences. ☎ 71535

Chat Cafe 6pm 2-1 You -Cute,
Tall, seated. We smiled, said hi. I waited for a friend- sorry he was on time! Brn-blue, 5'8", dark short, pants, slender. Call! ☎ 71536

I Should Have Got Off At Powell
Me Black guy with blue hair, you-salt & pepper hair, caring a camel brief case. You waited at Powell Street for me to get off. Want to meet you. ☎ 71565

Jumping Java Cafe Sat. 2/12
You: dark hair, cute smile, reading book. Me: blonde, blue shirt. Wanted to chat, but had business meeting. Would love to get another chance to say hi. ☎ 71566

N. Baker Beach Feb 06
Calvin! (N.O.) An unexpected beautiful day had brought both of us out on our bikes. We chatted briefly, before you went rock climbing. I've got more places to show you... ☎ 71567

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

New Millennium Opportunity:
GBM,44 n/s HIV-,bright, conversational, top, ISO HIV-, masculine bottom 30s-40s, Arts, Collectible interests A+. ☎ 71478

Hot Frenchman!
French guy desired for love and adventure by hung romantic blue eyed European in late 30's. Let's meet in San Francisco or Europe. ☎ 71479

Rugged Guy Seeks Rugged Guy
Handsome half Latino gardener, 48, 5'8", neg, seeks attrac GWM for dating including movies, food, travel, reading + just fun. Let's keep open minds as we enjoy getting acquainted. ☎ 71480

...If You Need Love•Hard Sex.
I'm 36y.o. 5'7", 140lbs. lean muscle, brn., long hair. Masculine, handsome, easy-going. Nice dick "8". Enjoy everything. Looking 4 GM, under 40's. w/nice round butt. No fats or drugs. ☎ 71481

Romantic Hairy Italian
Handsome, WM, 6',170lbs, br/br, 42, healthy, HIV-neg; good sense of humor; seeks same; a potential boyfriend willing to explore and get to know each other, smoke /light drink ok. ☎ 71482

YummyShyGuy
GWM 6'2", 195, 44(looks 30's), and totally edible. The quiet ones are sometimes the best buddies. Also the hottest. Versatile, love oral, n/s, HIV-. Tell me what you want. ☎ 71483

Hola! GLM
40yr. old GWM, 5'10", 180lb. blond, hairy-chested, HIV-neg, seeking in-shape GLM, up to 40, HIV-neg, for dating, romance, LTR- smooth, goatee A+. ☎ 71484

Retired PO WM 5-11 180,
Like working out, like younger Hispanic males. I never have had intimate sexual relationship in my life. Call me. ☎ 71537

You're 4 Me!
GWM, 41y.o, 215#, seeks 35-45y.o. hairy top. I'm financially secure, outgoing, like movies & music, entertaining & "the good life". HIV- only please. ☎ 71485

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 34y/o black hair, brown eyes, goatee professional looking for GWM between 26-40y/o for friendship, or more. I like: hiking, dinner, traveling. Just call me. ☎ 71486

Single Attractive 28
I'm Latino, 5'6", 165lbs, stocky, muscular, dark hair, smooth, seeking Latinos, Asians, or Whites under 40 for friendship or build monogamous LTR. ☎ 71487

Seeking Hispanic/ Blond Blue 18-21yrs.
Prefer significant other/ friends HIV-. No overweights/ fems. I'm Hispanic, blk. hr. brn. eyes. olive complexion, 24yrs. 157lbs. HIV- considered good looking comments made. ☎ 71506

Seeking Matured Man
W/M wanting a casual relationship with a clean, trim matured man, late 50s to 60s who enjoys receiving oral service. Your place, no reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71507

Don't Know How It's Done
But want to try. I need mixture of orders. + humiliation coupled with ongoing love relationship. I'm 57, GWM on bottom 5'11". ☎ 71508

GWM 44 5'9" 180 Med Build
Smooth body bn/bn wants to meet med or slightly chubby men for safe sensual play. Enjoy footplay A+rel poss. ☎ 71509

Nellie's!
ISO nellie man, 45-52, approx. 5'8", 150lbs, any color. GWM, neg, masculine, 5'8" 175lbs., fit craftsman. If you're masculine or straight-acting, Don't call. ☎ 71510

GAM Seeks Love Life
GAM, 33, 5'11", 135#, seeks in-shape GWM, 33-45. HIV- to fulfill the life destination. Honesty is the best. ☎ 71511

Bottom Seeks Phone Sex
Submissive GWM 5'7" 130lbs begs to worship verbal dominant top, hgt-wet proportional. ☎ 71512

Friendship & ?
Attractive 39 GWM, 175lb, 5'11", brown, ice blue, attempting to re-join dating scene, seeking sense of humor, sincere, romantic, love cabins, quiet nights, theater, sound interesting? ☎ 71513

Do You Use A Vacuum Pump?
Do you like j/o and wear a cockring(s)? A slim Asian is seeking a companion who is gentle, easy going, and healthy, preferably in his 30s-40s, for more than sex. ☎ 71538

Romance And Intimacy +
I 'm a nice guy, attractive, HIV+, healthy positive attitude, down to earth, seeking HIV+ attractive, masculine male, 25-37, top. Emotionally available, into personal growth, sense of humor, good heart. ☎ 71539

Slim Gdlkng Hip Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, good shape, versatile, Hi-IQ, HIV-. You: short, slim--not stocky, facial hair, 50+. Smoke, small dick ok. Safe only! ☎ 71540

40 To Older Daddy Oral Fuck Me
Seek secured, romantic, oral, love to fuck daddy, by GBM, 40yo, 170lb., 5'10"several touch. ☎ 71541

Looking For Chuck Flannery-Jones!
I met you in Costa Rica at the Kekoldi Hotel. I want to know if you are still interested in what we had talked about. I am! Please contact me! Gabrielle. ☎ 71568

30 To 40
Your body has to be clean with a nice muscular shape and big swollen nipples and nice butt. Do not care about the size of your tool. ☎ 71577

Eager Late Bloomer
Bottom, 5'8", br.bl. 60yo, 175lb, muscular legs, firm butt. Earthly Intellectual, multilingual, traveled. Reliable, caring. ISO any race, any age adult who can get it hard and pump. ☎ 71569

Love Is All You Need! Me Too!
GWM, 39, 5'9", 150lbs. HIV+, Italian/Celtic, long dr hair, dk gr eyes, scorpio, artist/engineer, 8"cut, athletic, versatile, herbs ok, love pets. ISO to date 25-45-Let's talk. ☎ 71570

Ready To Take A Chance?
You're 35-45, GWM, HIV+, lean masculine, versatile, seeking romance. I'm 50, nice body, sensual dad. We like gym, humor, travel, friends, home. We're fit, gl, professional, motivated, politically/ socially aware. ☎ 71571

Ox Seeks Snake Or Rooster
GWM, Libra, 50, (looks 40), 6', 185#, go-t, HIV+, seeks stable, cuddler into mutual ass play with in shape 30-59 (Fire or Air sign +). ☎ 71572

Experienced Bottom Sks Asian..
32y.o., blonde, muscular, 165#, 5'10", Pisces/Ram, self-educated, stable. You: grounded, communicative, trustworthy, health-conscious and optimistic. I desire: submission, stressful rope-bondage, humiliation and many forms of (tactile) pain. ☎ 71573

Good Catch Seeking Partner
Me: BM 50 top, educated, prof, HIV-. You: 50-65 bottom and horny. Let's talk and get familiar. Prefer: beefy-men under 6', no beards and sensitive nips. Open to LRT. ☎ 71574

Romantic,Loving,Sweet Guy GWM
Cute, GWM 24yo, 6'1", 160lbs. auburn hair, hazel eyes, looking for a sweet loving guy to love me and hold me. All races Asians A+. 21-40 only LTR. ☎ 71575

Let's Watch The Sun Set
Hopeless romantic, seeking another to watch the sun set, long walks, quiet dinners. Individual must understand what quality time is. Looking for another to share and grow with. ☎ 71576

18 To Only
You must be 18 to 19 only for honest friendship. I love safe sex and good talks. Swollen nipples, nice butt, good teeth, HIV-, a plus. ☎ 71578

Best Buds
Masculine, muscular, Italian topman is looking for a bud to "hang" with in the city. Travel, vacations, etc. Don't care about your age, race, top or bottom. Masculine men only. ☎ 71579

Very Hot Looking Latin Bottom
Love getting my butthole dick-down & master cock eater, I 'm 39, good looking-seeks WGM- top with super large cock. ☎ 71580

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Hairy Top Stud
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", buzzcut, stache, muscular hairy chest, 8"cut, poz, aggressive, passionate total top; you: GWM, attractive, under 45, slutty nasty bottomboy, eager to please horny daddy. ☎ 71488

Shut Up And Fuck
35 WM 5'10", 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk (48"ch 32"w 18"arms) wants good looking masculine men to pump or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 71489

Black And White XXX Sex & Fun!
GWM, 46, 5'11", 175, goodlooking, masculine, healthy, uninhibited, hung thick, HIV+ bottom seeks GBM for hot J/O, videos, nude beaches. Watch me beat my big thick meat. Palo Alto area. ☎ 71490

Lonely Asian
5'7", 135, uncut, smooth. Seeks GWM, fit, 25-40 for safe hot action. Desperately need pampering. ☎ 71491

Hungry For Muscle Worship
Need to engage in muscle fantasy. Worship with arrogant muscle gods-Me 30's gdlkg, 6'3" 190 bl/blu in-shape. Want to be slave to bb's only. All races. Lake Tahoe, Sac, S.F., Reno. Will travel. Age 25-45. ☎ 71492

Covered In Body Hair?
Handsome, muscular GWM, 37, 5'11", 175, seeks men 30-50, height and weight in proportionate who are extremely hairy. (Thick hair covering your back, chest, arms, etc) for safe body rubbing. ☎ 71493

Hot Top Bi White Stud Needs
Weekday hot sex encounters in S.F. You must be slim. Smooth, Asian, & want to be 100% bottom for 100% top young stud. ☎ 71494

ISO Mouth And Throat Stretcher
If you have a really big, thick, juicy tool, I turn into a pig! Talk nasty to me while I gobble up your stud piece of meat. Extra thick, A+. ☎ 71495

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY** at **5 PM,** for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The *Bay Area Reporter* reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
- Seeking Relationship ☐
- Seeking Adventure ☐
- Lesbian ☐
- Fetishes ☐
- Couples ☐
- Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, **30 words maximum**

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Wanted Skinny Cocks-East Bay
For Greek and French fun. All the pleasure and much more comfortable. I'm 5'4", 130lbs, blk, br, HIV-, versatile. Have 6 1/2" uncut. All HIV-welcome. ☎ 71496

2 Tops 17"inches of Tol 4 Azn
We are GWm, 37, 5'10", 160#, 8" cut & GLM, 26, 5'9", 145#, 9" uncut. Both clean & both tops. Need Azn bottom boys in S.F. for daytime hot sex. ☎ 71497

White Tool 4 Asian Bottom Boys
Sexy hung 36y.o. clean stud with 8" cut tool is available in S.F. weekdays for this stud to be service by slim young Azn bottoms. ☎ 71498

Wrestling Buddies
Fit, good-looking 170lb. GWM seeks well-built G/BIWMs for frisky wrestling with a sensual edge. Trunks & tee, Speedos, and/or nude. Goal is kicks, not damage. Let's turn fantasies into reality! ☎ 71514

Downtown Deep Throat
GWM 50 great head any age, race. 7" or better lay back and get done. ☎ 71515

Glory Hole Connoisseur
Beautiful cock, delicious huge loads, 5'11", 180, blond/blue, all-american looking 32 yrs old male digs the glory hole scene. Facial hair big plus. Be clean, masculine, a talented cocksucker. ☎ 71516

I Like To Suck Cock And Get Fucked
GWM, HIV-, n/s n/d. I like to suck cock and play with ball's and ass. I like to get fucked, age no factor. Let's watch videos together, call. ☎ 71517

60 Yr Old Horn-Dog In Berkeley
ISO same for mutual back door bone feasts hopefully on a routine basis. Only requirement, a working bone. ☎ 71518

Bodybuilder Phone Jo
Bodyworship, muscle sex, role play, orders, flexing, posing in jockstrap. Call with your fantasy and get off. 5'9", 195lb, 44ch, 16a. ☎ 71519

Spank Me
Cute little frat boy 22, gym-body, needs over the knee discipline from big brother. 18-35. ☎ 71520

Hot Latino Nice's Legs Likes
To get fucked and likes to suck. Redwood City area. ☎ 71542

Sub Mis Blk Bot Sks Top
Dom/ verbal + raunch, kink, sleaze, role playing + no pain or bondage .Avail sm wends & eves. ☎ 71543

Tall Guys With Big Meat
Handsome muscular hung big 5'8", Italian likes em tall and hung. Versatile, very oral and waiting for big meat. ☎ 71544

GWM Age 45, 5'11" Bind Blue 160lb.
Lean, muscular, goodlking HIV- in Santa Rosa seeks same for heaving fucking and ass eating. ☎ 71545

Santa Rosa Head
W/M, 44, 6'/265# gives great head to clean W/M's- no recipro. Daytime best - convenient location for a nooner. ☎ 71546

Got One? All Races Please
Small guy, big ass. Am aching for a beautiful one to eat. Describe to the depth at your fantasy, yours. Safe sane space, fun had only. ☎ 71547

40+ Dominant Top
Sought by mature masculine submissive bdsm submissive is experienced prefer same. ☎ 71549

Sex Only
All races 18 to 30 for safe clean sex. HIV- clean hygiene, submissive, straight, and kissable. GBM, 48, 5'10", 220 muscle, ch.49", swollen nipples, good natured, HIV-. ☎ 71584

Asian Male Seeking For Hot Sex
Hung GWM wanted by GAM 34, 155#, 5'8" to tongue my ass, fuck my mouth, and cum on my chest. ☎ 71550

Dark Cuban
Cuban 32, 6' 185#, HIV -, fit, romantic bottom seeking HIV- masculine tops 25-45, for several, hot and romantic sex encounters. ☎ 71551

Hairy Little Fuckbuddy
47yo, hairy, bearded, healthy, poz GWM, 5'8", 140, muscled, versatile wants same (hairy, poz, versatile) for rough sweaty mutual buttfucking. Leather, b&d, 69ing also. ☎ 71552

Nice Dick For GAM/GLM
35, GWM, 8", cut, top,5'9", 155# needs GAM/GLM to service me. If you like 3 way GLM, 22, 8", uncut. Can join. S.F., daytime. ☎ 71553

ISO Gay Or Bi Men
Straight W/M 50's good shape, HIV-, nice body and butt for play and cuddling etc. Open to all that enjoy giving sensual pleasure. Your place. Penn. to S.F. ans. all. ☎ 71581

Seek'g SF's Tiniest Asian Cock
WM, 5'10", 165lbs., 35, HIV-, bottom. Will your cock and balls fit into my mouth? Wanna get rimmed? Wanna fist me? Call! ☎ 71582

Hot Smooth Muscular
Bottom into bondage/sm. 31, 150#, very blue eyes, GWM. rope me, torture my tits, then come all over me. ☎ 71583

Hunky Boy Seeks Daddy
Confident, sexy college-boy. 25, 6'3", 180#, bl/bl. Train me. Gym, schoolwork cocksucking. Age, looks unimportant, but daddy's fit, self-disciplined. (Tall, military background pluses). Disobedience, slacking means punishment. Success- love and approval. ☎ 71548

Bottom Sex Pigs Wanted
Well-hung uncut BM needs very experienced mature males for deep safe plowings at your place. Deep throats, aroma, men of color, a plus. Non-racist only! ☎ 71585

Chub & Big Bear Orgy
Daytime orgy being organized for chubs & big bears. Call for info. ☎ 71586

LESBIAN

Seeking Lesbian Couple
Professional gay couple (one American, one European), seeking lesbian couple (one American, one Foreigner) to share problems. ☎ 71521

FETISHES

Boot Licker
Let this boot licking dog show you the respect you need. ·Get me on all 4r's. You will enjoy it! ☎ 71499

Young Slave For Dog Training
Very cute 26y.o. submissive boy from Eastern Europe wants to be fully trained as doggy by experienced demanding dog trainer under 36. Full satisfaction guaranteed. ☎ 71522

Cigar Smokin Dirty Talkin Top
GWM 5'10", 40's, hairy 32 waist, dark hair into nasty role playing-cop, with in-shape bottoms- uniforms suits A+. ☎ 71524

Velvet Lined Deep Throat
GWM-37-buzz cut-handsome HIV-available daytime and weekends for your pleasure. ISO-very masculine, HIV- (35-55)-top- too good to be true! ☎ 71525

Sniff My Butt
Cute buttlips for groomed, fit, gentlemen. Deepen your tongue! S 71528

Penis Confinement
Erotic chastity, yoga. Unable to respond to your ad in December. I'm still interested. ☎ 71555

Bottom Feeder For Ass Worship
Enjoy having your asshole and cock licked and sucked your way with all the accompanying raunch you want by an obedient worshipful bottom feeder. ☎ 71526

Butt Play Intern Needs Patient
For practice addiction to tongue, fingers and toys ++. Must be able to follow directions. G.L. mature guy. 5'11" 175. ☎ 71527

FeetSheerSocksAnyOneOutThere
Attractive Latino 33, 5'11", 190, dark features, size 12 shoe, Virgo, n/s, n/d, would like to meet Latins, Whites or Asians into same fetish, under 38, n/s, no games. ☎ 71554

Sewerdog Into Extreme Raunch
Bi WMA, 48, 5'11", 240, brn stache/buzzcut. Redneck, greased-down, crud dirty machine, digs big maduros, redman spit, and other dudes into heavy raunch. I'm real versatile. No limits. ☎ 71557

Thirsty Piss Pig
Insatiable appetite for piss & butt. GWM 37, 5'8", 130 gym toned with a mouth that can't get enough. Looking for GWM in good shape into satisfying my appetite. ☎ 71523

Big Pecs Fetish
GWM, 5'10", 165lbs., In shape, swimmers build, great butt bottom, looking for muscular top with a big muscular chest. ☎ 71556

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71558

Two Nipple Pigs Look For 1 Or
More nipple pig. One top Cuban bisexual male 48y/o 5'8" 160 pounds 7 1/2". Muscular German bottom gay male 45y/o 5'9" 180lbs. Both with big nipples and into heavy tit work. ☎ 71559

SeeksseriousNippleWorkOutBuddy
45yr.ol 200lb. stocky nipple pig...brn/brn, s&p goatee, tats & piercings- looking for serious muscular masculine nipple stud for heavy workouts with growth in mind... Please call!!! Serious+++ ☎ 71560

Thirsty Toilet Dad
50yo discreet HIV- dad seeks kick back HIV- healthy top, to service your sweaty hard or soft dick, pits, feet, tall skinny a plus. Will consider all raunchy tops. ☎ 71561

FFT Wants FFB
GWM 56, HIV- with nice big hands. Desires GWM 30+HIV- with hot hole for fun and exploration. ☎ 71587

Pounded Below The Belt
Seek hot young men who get off on abuse below the belt, mild to slugfest. Me: 39, very muscular, defined. You: built, hot, tough. Big cock/balls A. ☎ 71588

COUPLES

Fantastic 3-Ways Two GWM 38 And
40yrs., goodlooking seeks similar or other couples. ☎ 71563

3 Way Relationship Wanted
Hot, sexy, GWM wants to join couple for 3 way LTR. Prof. by day, ithr by night. This boy is 5'6", 130, furry, gym toned. Your are VGL probably 35-45 and hot. Rest is negotiable. ☎ 71562

OTHERS

Only Decent, May Apply.
I like virile man to pose for me. To view you completely naked, not naughty, but natural. Older male cleric has artistic interest. Upper Haight. ☎ 71529

Daytime Workout Partner Wanted
Looking for morning or afternoon workout partner in my downtown basement gym (weights, mats, more). Also wrestle, box- If you do too, great but not necessary- Let's pump together. ☎ 71564

Geek To Geek
Tall GWM conservative older geek 50's HIV-, smoker, non gym bunny, into arts, spirituality, history, looking for younger geek for friendship and what faith brings. ☎ 71589

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Be sure to always play safe. AIDS still exists in our community! Remember to wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Don't forget, safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE



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The City

◀ page 33

tempting to put very human faces on the subject of undocumented workers, trying to replicate on film the great photojournalism of James Agee and Walker Evans (*Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*), who allowed Depression-era America to grasp the humanity of Appalachian sharecroppers, paving the way a generation later for The Great Society's War on Poverty.

Riker adapts to his own purpose British filmmaker Mike Leigh's screenwriting technique, in which a film's actors are allowed to develop their own characters and dramatic through-lines. Riker made his mostly non-professional cast comfortable "being themselves" on screen, although it was disconcerting to realize on a second viewing that José Rabelo, the sad-eyed father of "The Puppeteer," was Pedro, the lecherous doorman who meets a hilariously cruel fate in Todd Solondz's dark comedy *Happiness*. While Solondz gives his ensemble of characters richly perverse inner lives, Riker prefers to linger on the surface of his character's suffering, and ultimately this allows didacticism to taint our enjoyment of *The City*.

Scraping by

When the day laborers of "Bricks" scrape mortar off ancient building blocks, we are reminded that these Latin immigrants lack the social binding of a trade union; a young man's confusion navigating the streets of New York deprives him of "Home"; etc. When Agee commented on the sexual inhibitions of his sharecropper subjects, he made explicit reference to his own painful fumblings and sly masturbation. Riker too often feels like a documentarian merely daytripping through the world of fiction film, eavesdropping on his characters the way you might on a bus. Ironically, one of *The City*'s best moments comes when a garment worker uses an elevated train car as a place for prayer.

In *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, the director/writer team of Ted Kotcheff and Mordecai Richler effectively skewered anti-Semitism without the slightest hint that they were trying to. By film's end, we forgive Duddy's pushy and sometimes ruthless self-aggrandizement because we know him inside out, and he could be us. While Riker constantly hammers home his point that today's Latin immigrants are just like all that have come before them, he fails to show us how or why. *The City* too often comes across as firmly grounded neither in the culture of Latin America nor the filmmaker's own imagination.

Riker the photographer makes us ache to know what's going on behind all those fabulous faces. Individual frames from *The City* would make a great MoMA exhibition. The photographer's skill does serve him well in his screen use of negative space — in "Bricks," a young boy is dwarfed by the Berlin Wall-like setting of an old brickyard. We feel at times that *The City*'s buildings are about to swallow up or crush the characters, not unlike the way director Alan J. Pakula used Washington's monumental architecture to beat down Woodward and Bernstein's efforts to foil Tricky Dicky. More could also have been done with the film's transition device of a wedding photographer's studio, the only place in the film where the characters from the four chapters threaten to cross paths.

In the end, *The City* is best represented by the seamstress's subway car prayer — it's a film about prayer, which is a fancy word for hope. It's a meditation on unanswered prayers and lost hope. ▼

***The City (La Ciudad)* opens Friday at the Castro Theatre.**

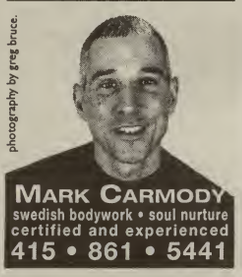
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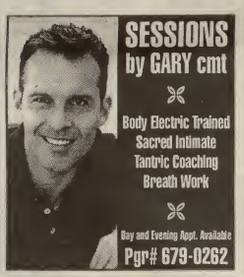
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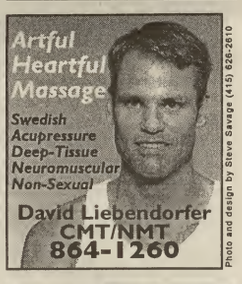


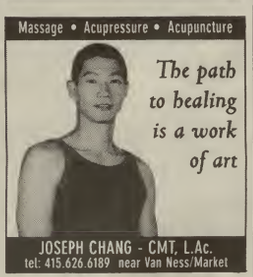


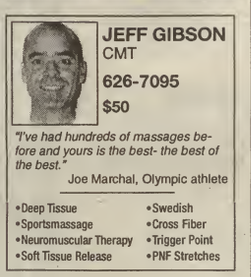






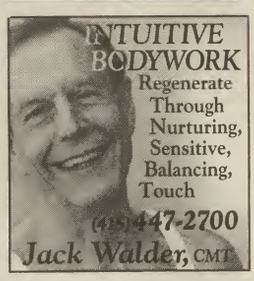












MASSAGE

SEXY ASIAN
$60 Jim 267-1817
E08

Handsome clean-cut college boy 6'2", muscular, friendly, strong Soothing touch. 377-4304. In/Out
E08

Cute, Smooth, Tender
26Y/O ASIAN
In/Out-$60
DAVE*567-7693
E08

Erotic nude massage by well-built 48 yo man 24hrDwntnSF 3982441Mark
E10

5'7"X135#Smooth 23y/o relaxing
ASIAN RETREAT
Older Men & touruists OK 790-7888
E08

Erotic full body massage
RUSSIAN RIVER
By sexy well-built stud. $45
Out extra 707-865-2093 *Bob
E09

Tailored Touch To Suit Your Desire
Daniel * 775-4623
E08

EROTIC MASSAGE
in the nude. Release with a cute handsome 25yo masculine hairy chest, legs cute butt! Outcalls anywhere in SF Bay area. Brice $80. Nice release after. 510-912-8812
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HOPELESSLY ROMANTIC CHINESE MASSEUR
Sensual and prostate massage available 415-251-0261. Call Now!
E08

Touch Me All Over/X-Rated Rub
By Hot Nudist/Ken/346-4966/$60
E09

Husky Hairy Naked Tattooed Dad soothes you with Swedish/Erotic massage $50 Buzz CMT 863-2094 home.earthlink.net/~buzzone/
E08

Berkeley. Esalen/Sports Massage VISA/MC Kent CMT (510) 845-3036
E13

Unique style therapeutic and erotic massage in front of a fireplace. Outcalls available also.Johnny 505-3060
E12

FEEL THE DIFFERENCE
Strong,energetic and athletic CMT. In/Out Fernando * (510) 655-4469
E11

Total Zone Erogenous Massage
Jacoby 24 hr, 408-814-2295
5'7" 125# Hry Swmrs Bld will trvl
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COMPASSIONATE TOUCH
Sensual, Swedish, full-body massage by very friendly, intuitive, well-toned gdlkng CMT. Given in a unique,warm,relaxing studio with all the amenities. $50/hr $65/90 mins. Page Del at 415-376-5770
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Deep-Tissue/Erotic Massage
http://davisphoto.com/sfboy/
DAVIS * 415-558-0657
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I'M BACK-COME RELAX!!!
Warm friendlyh versatile Eastbay guy gives intuitive nude erotic fullbody massage. $40 an hour. Jim 510-527-7630 Eves/SA/SU/MO
E12

Cute,fit,29,hard, shaved bod
NAKED MARINE
Mutual touching 415-289-7002
E09

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FULL BODY SENSUAL MASSAGE
Strong * Healing * Nurturing
Michael 707-887-9218 * CMT
E13

EAST BAY BLOND MASSEUR
Full body erotic massage in the nude! Cum and relax. Sean 510 639 7086
E10

SEXY ISRAELI
Great massage by handsome, friendly, experienced CMT 245-1352
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GREAT BODYWORK
Swedish/Trager/deep tissue
Sensual-nurturing-replenishing
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E03-00

Friendly pro w/talented, affectionate hands, will honor your body + bless you with bliss w/slow,sensual touch, masculine nurturing, relaxed eroticism and solid massage. $50 TOM 764-6319
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$55 toned Latin 415-552-1106
nudeknead@aol.com
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10+yrs exp, Full Tension Release
MID-PENINSULA-CMT
In/Out, days.eves,Tom 650-345-7318
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Midwestern Guy attr broad shoulders muscular dark hair gives a great Swedish massage 221-6716 * Darryl
E08

Therapeutic/Sensual Massage By Friendly ExpCMT$40/Hr.$50/90min Neil 431-5993/376 2047 Pgr
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Fremont CMT, Jim, mature, great hands. $40/hr. (510) 651-2217
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Massage by Ray in the Sunset Dist $50Hr/In * 564-8159
E08

Light, sensual overall nude body-work by bear. Am's good 339-7465
E08

SANTA ROSA HIDEAWAY
Superb massage from Swedish to firm disciplined plus fantasies explored by by mature masseur in country setting. Also group programs and lodging. Roger 707-525-1771. www.sr-hideaway.com
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JOHN (510) 658-2437
E09

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Hot Hawaiian-Jap, gorgeous butt *Loads of Relief* 650-592-4620
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Muscular Sexy Nude
Expert certified massage therapist does sensual erotic & professional Swedish on table. Jeff (415)553-8804
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Relax Release Enjoy a sensual fullbody massage by 37 CMT 90 min $45. Great hands Stan 641-8221
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Erotic massage 1Hr $35 641-9057
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27y/o Latin hunk invites U2 relax
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massage 1 hour, professional, erotic 24 hours. 7 years experience Pete 552-7383 $50/In, $70/Out http://only.at/IKneadyou
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Mack's "Full Body Massage"
IN&OUT CALLS. HOTELS TOO!
Pgr 415-251-0563 anytime..
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Castro *Certified* only $40
****WANNA MELT?****
Jim de Masseur* 621-4517
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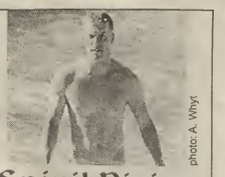
IN SONOMA COUNTY, CALL JOE, C.M.T.
For a firm & satisfying hands-on experience. Your place or mine in Petaluma * Call (707) 766-8269
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29yo 6' 155# sacred intimate provides deep inner peace with Taoist technique*Dillon 235-4boy
LIGHT*SPIRIT*BODY
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Magical Massage Mastery that heals while it pleasures from a cmt who knows how to electrify the body. Oak Greg 510-547-1364
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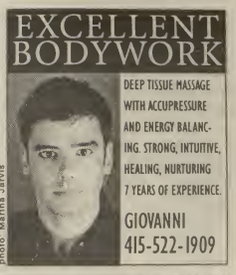
Peninsula Full Body-Erotic Deep Muscle-Swedish-Sports Therapy Healing touch In/Out 650-367-7528
E26

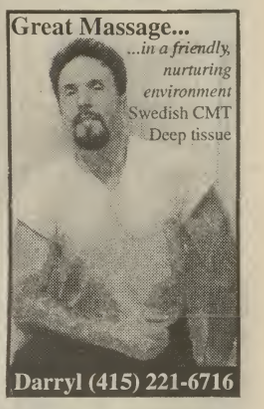
MASSAGE











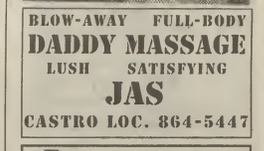






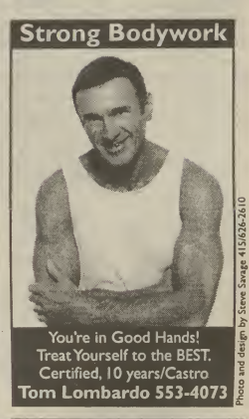


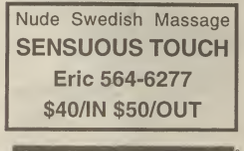








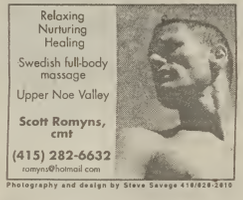








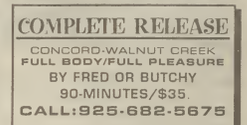


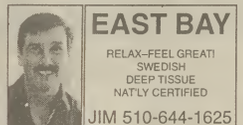




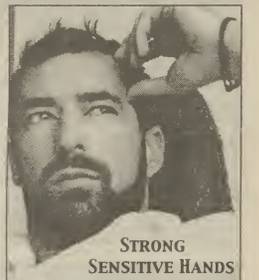




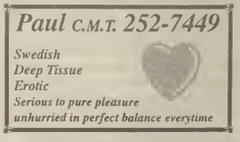
















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Erotic nude massage by 30yr old W/M 5'7" 150# E-Z 24th St BART Big hands in/out student discount
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TALL BLOND 6'3"
Swimmer's build, hairy chest. Hot Massage 415-449-5968 Out Only E08

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Sexy, muscular, hot, big black dude 5'8 175; evenings, weekends. In/Out Page (415) 201-0579 - Darryl E09

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Cute blonde CMT gives Swedish/Deep Tissue massage using table, hot oil. (415) 929-9224 * Nob Hill E18

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Tim,6'2",220# sensual, unrushed body fulfillment * 415-595-3564 E08

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Massage/energy work transcends stress, trauma, dis-ease and stagnation @ cellular level. Transformational! Rob 235-4269
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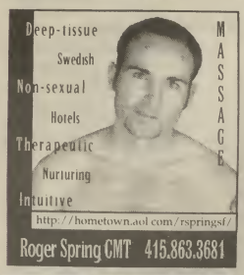
Superb sensual massage by handsome athletic Asian CMT pvt clean ez park nr SFO best time late night call Shin 650-579-3553 E15

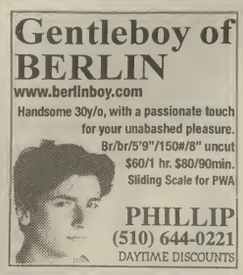
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Love the body, know the soul. Massage, taoist erotic energy work, intentional touch, intuitive readings. 646-0685. E10

MASSAGE



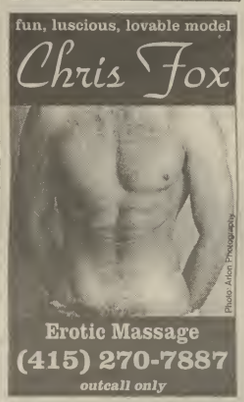


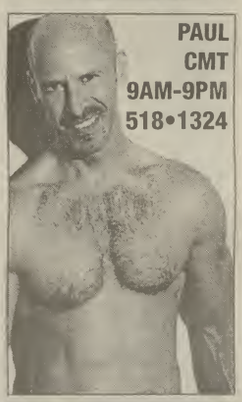


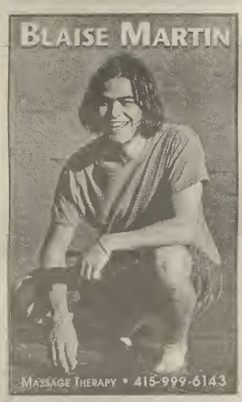


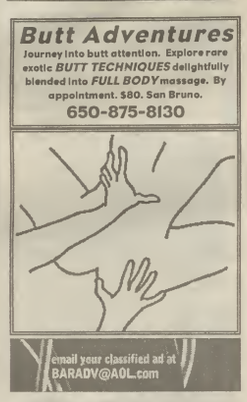




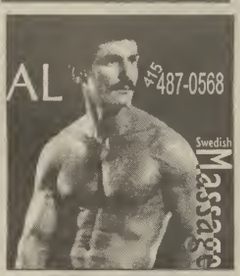








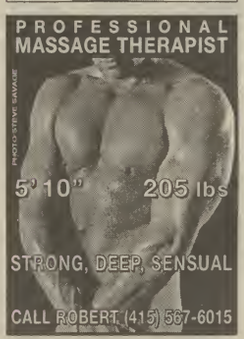
















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In warm living flesh 4u2 play!
Warm, sensual, powerful hands. Hot!
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Hot surfer, blond/bl, big, 25, 150
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6'2", 200, 32y. old. Gives hot nude sensual massage. Ph. Anthony at 510-533-4398 E08

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BY APPOINTMENT
Tall man gives strong, nutring touch. Certified and experienced
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29yo 6' 155# sacred intimate provides deep inner peace with taoist technique *Dillon 235-4boy
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Pasty, Oyerweight, Balding Man with hair on back will touch you under the guise of massage - and you pay me! E08

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SIZE 12 FEET -HOT- TOP
Gd LKing Foot top 40yo, 6'1", 195#
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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
ASIAN TOP
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Gdlking into bondage, s/m, w/s,
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In the nude. Release with a cute handsome 25yo. masculine hairy chest, legs, cute butt! Outcalls anywhere in SF Bay Area. Brice $80
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Huge hung 10x7 size 11 feet
nice balls loves to show off.
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5'11" 167lbs 8" uncut, total top, smooth torso, suave 415-251-0261 E09

8" Nudist/Oral/Ken/346-4966/$60 E09

Hndsm hairy massively endowed
CHOKE ON THIS!
Hung 10x7 34 6" 150# runners bld dominant mascln gentle strength & arousing edge aggressive top loves 2b serviced verbal kink
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BB Bottom In/Marin, Out/BayArea
Ted* (415) 459-3488 E10

HUNG ITALIAN TOP
Ex model, go-t, hairy chest
Call Chris 771-3234 E09

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Page 415-207-8826 E08

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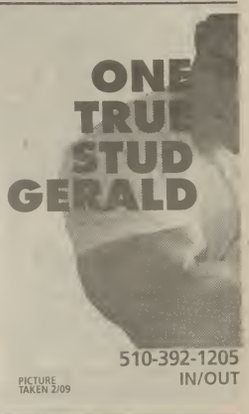
PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS

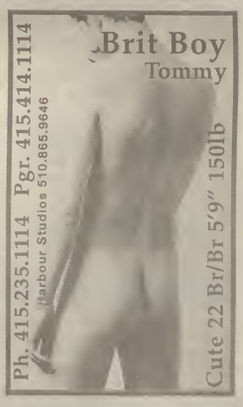


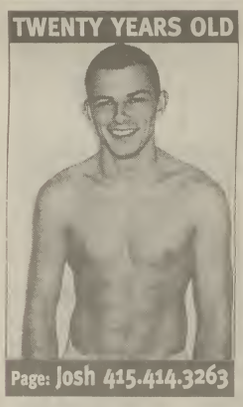








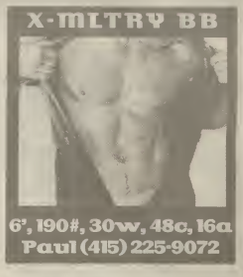
















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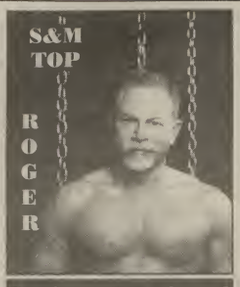
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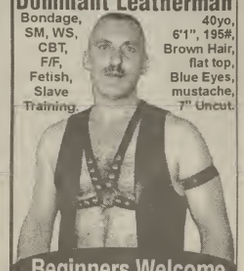


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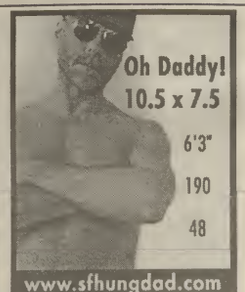


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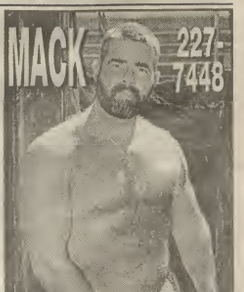
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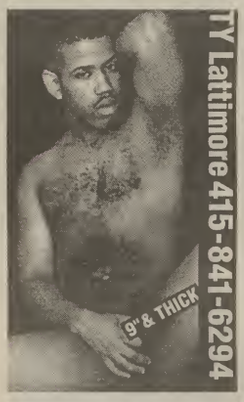
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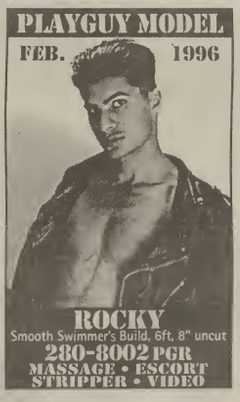
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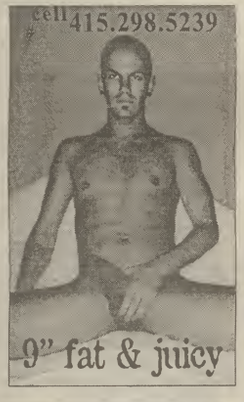
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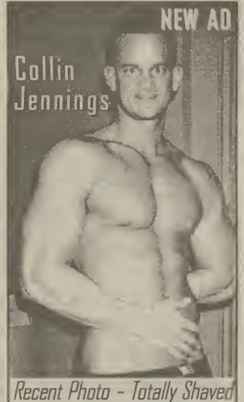
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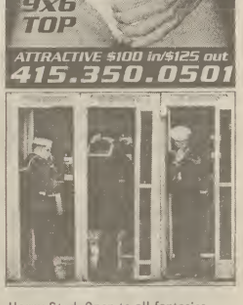


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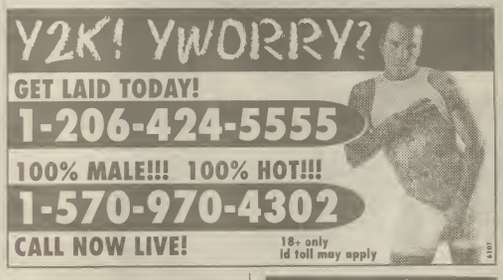


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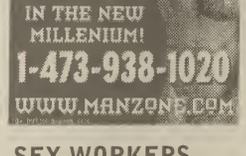
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E08

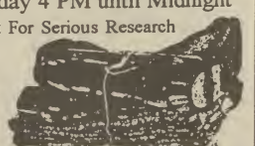


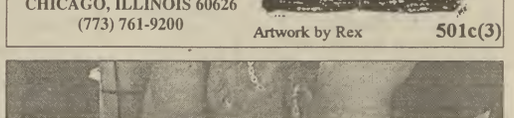
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E09

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Expiration Date
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Name

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Number of Issues | Classification | Amount Enclosed

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THE DUNGEON

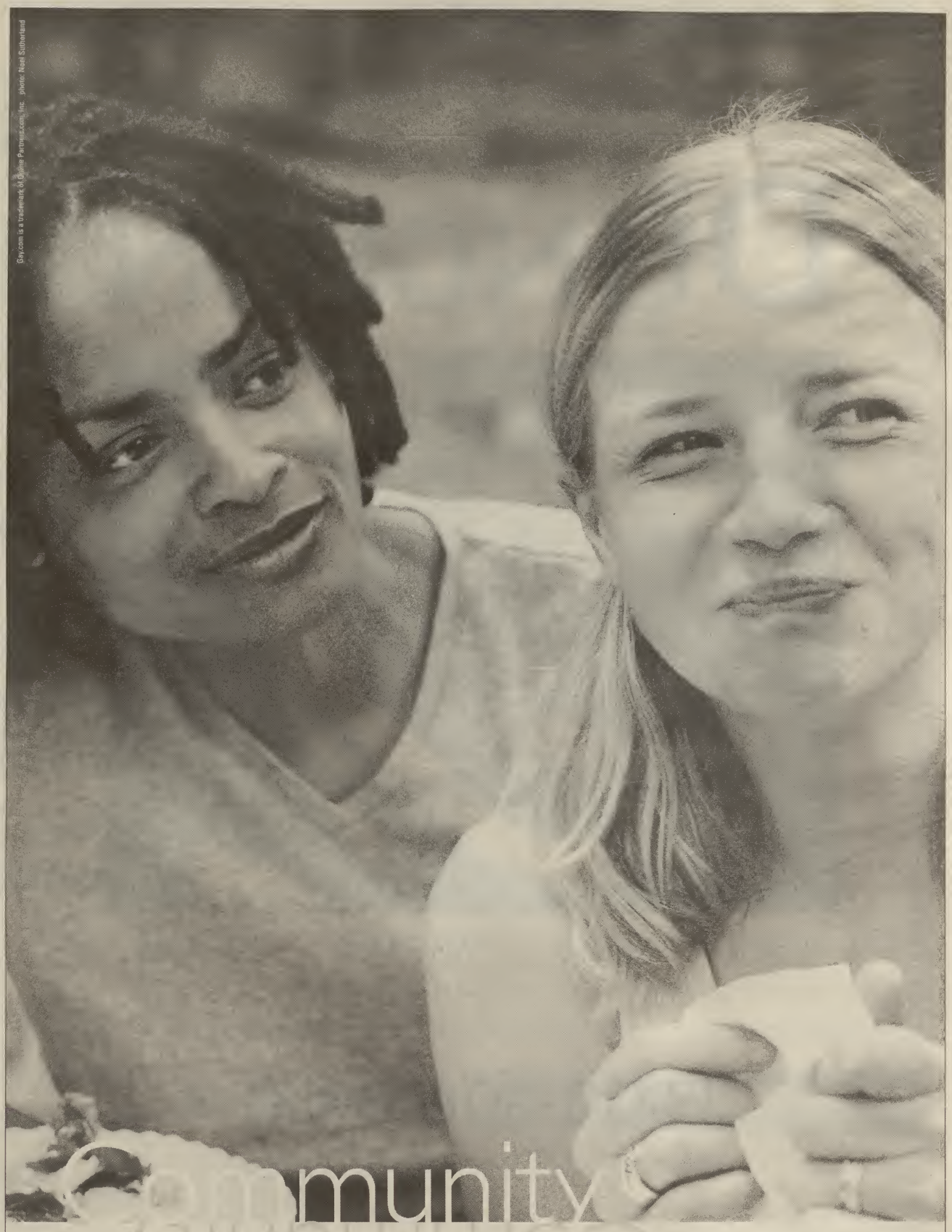


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